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The cover picture of a mosaic shows the winning team of a chariot race held in the Circus Maximus in Rome. The four-horsed chariot and driver with an attendant holding a palm leaf, the emblem of victory, are about to make a triumphal lap in front of 250,000 spectators.

The Circus Maximus occupied the whole length of the valley between the Palatine and Aventine Hills. It was Rome's oldest and largest public space reputed to have been founded by the first kings in the 6th century BC.

The oldest and most important event held there were the Roman Games (*Ludi Romani*) held annually for fifteen days in September in honour of Jupiter the Best and Greatest.

Visit monuments like this and see archaeological areas not usually open to the public with Dr Paul Wilkinson on KAFS Field Trips.

Picture credits: With thanks to all picture suppliers including: 3 BBC Books; 4, 5 Italian Tourist Board; 6 Trier Museum; 10, 11, 13 Portable Antiquities Scheme; 14, 15 Trustees of the British Museum; 23 English Heritage; 24, 25 Tempus Books; 30, 31 Bath Tourist Board; 31 Newcastle upon Tyne Tourist Authority.

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Welcome to the tenth year of the KAFS, the tenth copy of Practical Archaeology and the tenth season of courses held at the KAFS. We have come a long way, and grown from twelve members on our opening Saturday to the 823 members today.

In this issue we look back over the last decade to review our achievements so far.

Our first course on Archaeological Field Survey was held on September 5th 1998 with Lucy Kirk from Archaeology South-East, and attended by twenty four people.

Our second course held on September 19th was on Field-walking and Map Analysis and twenty eight people came.

The next course held on October 3rd was on Iron Age and Roman Pottery and we closed the bookings at fifty people. It was obvious by then that there was a tremendous demand from people who wanted to enjoy all aspects of our programme of practical archaeology.

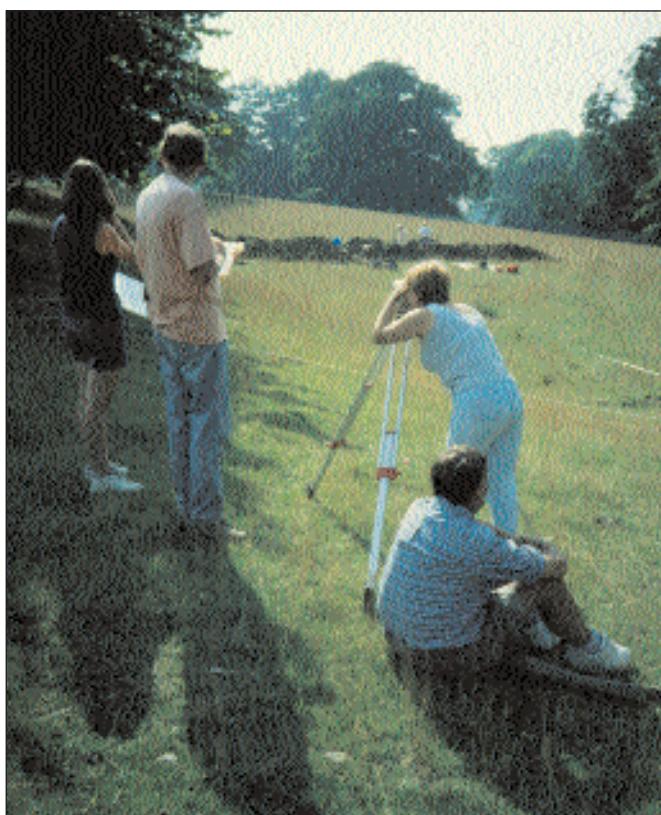
That year the east building was still undergoing rebuild and restoration, the public toilets were outside and water had not yet been connected, the roof also needed to be tiled, but the seeds of a successful enterprise had been sown and the next ten years saw a tremendous growth with students of all ages and from all parts of the world attending courses at the Field School.

In particular we have forged good links with the Universities of Southampton, Leicester, Nottingham and Birbeck College. A recent development is our involvement with the University of Texas which will enable our students to dig at Oplontis in coming years.

The archaeological sites we have investigated over the years have been spectacular, and range from an octagonal Roman bath-house at Bax Farm, a Roman villa at Deerton Street, the Roman town called *Durolevum* at Syndale Park, the

medieval Archbishops' Palace at Teynham, the Roman barn at Hog Brook with associated buildings, the Roman theatre and complex of buildings at Blacklands, and the Roman hexagonal feature with associated Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Bridge.

With the expansion of the Field School came the opportunity to devise archaeological tours in connection with *BBC History Magazine*, *History*

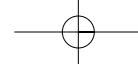


The first day of the Field School on September 5th 1998. The successful formula was already in place with a morning of lectures followed by practical demonstrations of survey in the field. Here students are training with Lucy Kirk (left) from Archaeology SouthEast.

Today, and Minerva. These tours have proved so popular that we now run a sister company called 'Roman Holidays' with Thomson Holidays (TUI).

A recent development is the self-travel long weekends away for students with prices for example for three days in Split exploring Diocletian's Palace starting at £150, whilst other wonderful sites start at £199. I look forward to seeing you in 2009.

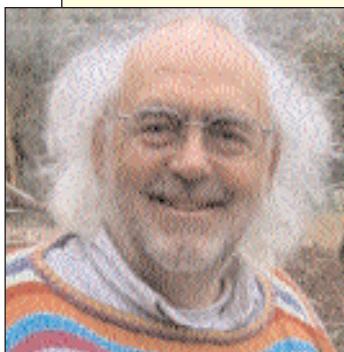
Paul Wilkinson



Issue No. 10 Spring 2009

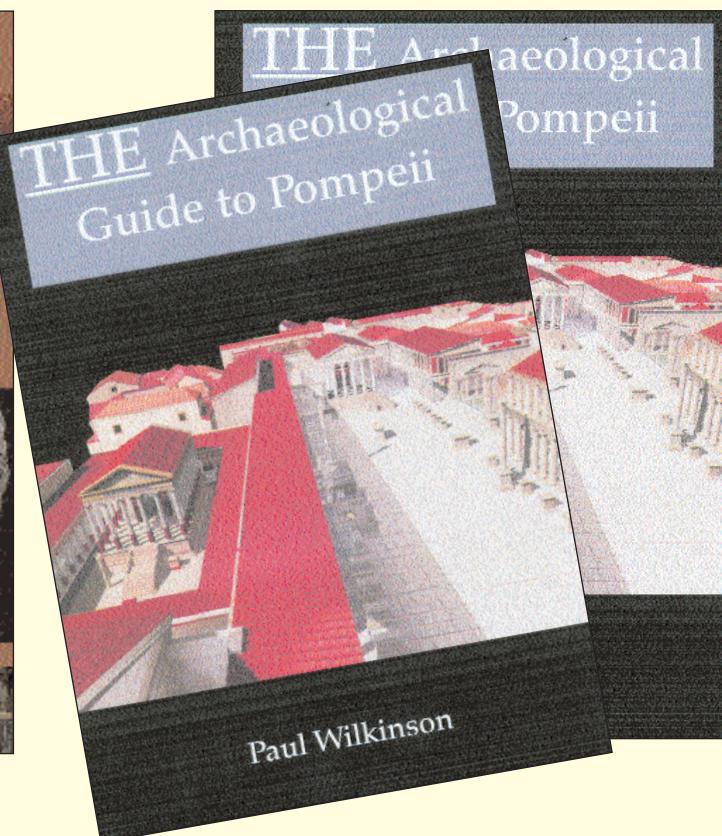
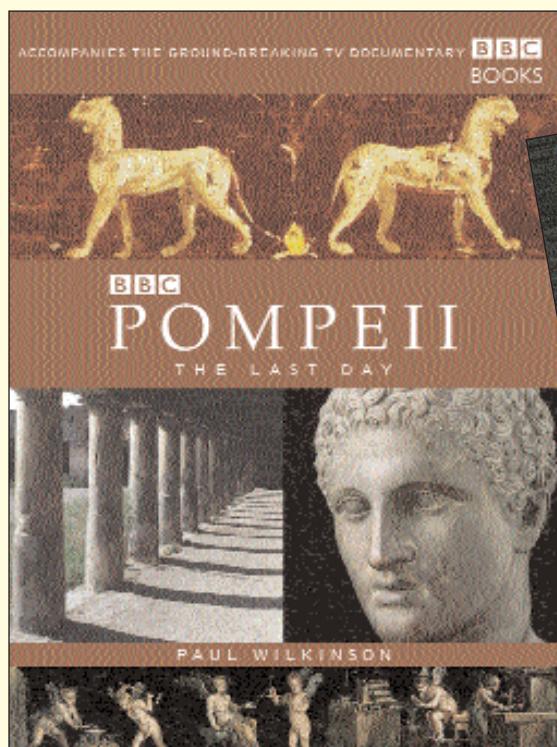
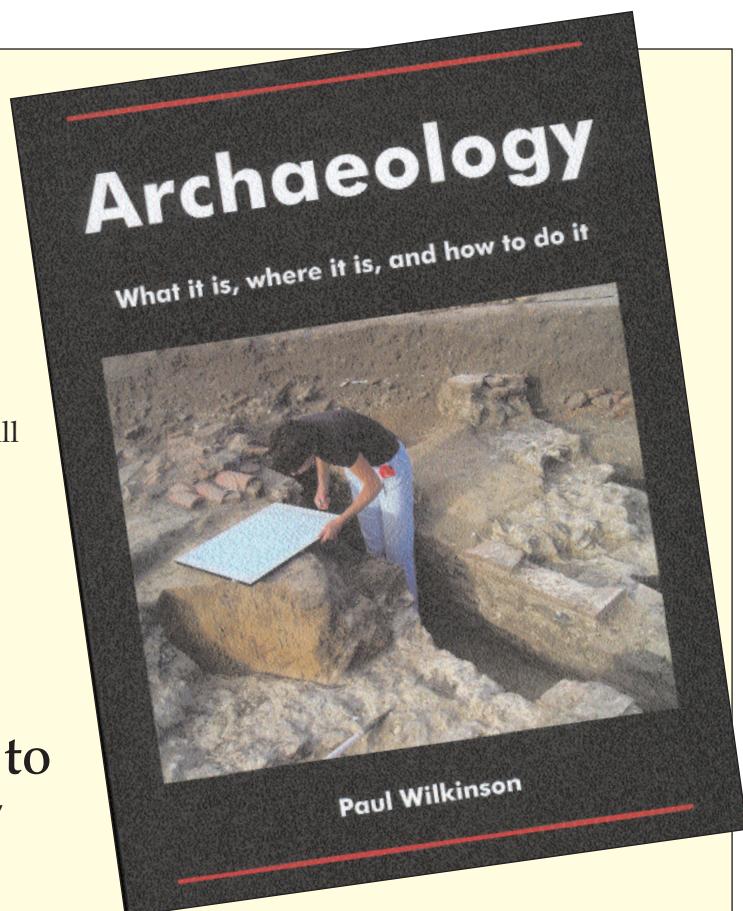
FIRST WORDS

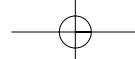
Good books on archaeology are essential to understand the subject and with a previous background in design it has been possible to start a successful publishing programme. Our first book on archaeology has turned out to be a best-seller with thousands of copies sold. It probably helps that respected archaeologists like Mick Aston and Francis Pryor endorsed the book. Our first 'Archaeological Guide' will be on Pompeii where we have excellent relations with the curators.



"A very useful basic introduction to archaeology"

Mick Aston





NEWS

Villa of Papyri- saving the library

The exploration of the Villa of the Papyri at Herculaneum was started in 1752.

Excavation ended in 1765. Its location was half-forgotten until 1986 when archaeologists entered it for the first time in 221 years.

The Swiss architect Karl Weber had drawn detailed plans when working with Alcubierre in the 1750s. Alcubierre, the site director, had problems working with Weber; because Alcubierre was after precious objects, he was not interested in recording or even preserving Herculaneum. His parties of local diggers, called the "cavamonti", burrowed through walls decorated with paintings, hacked through mosaics, cut through doors, all to find valuable objects. Weber wanted to record, draw plans and excavate in a more considered manner.

He had his chance when the sumptuous Villa of the Papyri was found buried just outside the town of Herculaneum. Weber spent years in tunnels exploring and recording the edifice until 1765 when the tunnels were sealed because lethal carbonic gas began to filter into them.

All the tunnels of Herculaneum were abandoned, filled with rubbish, became dangerous and the site was abandoned. It was left in such an unstable condition that the ground fell in and the villa disappeared from view.

Fortunately Karl Weber had made a detailed drawing, which revealed that the villa was originally an atrium-style farmhouse. Later, it incorporated an extensive peristyle with gardens and pools, and a belvedere at the end of a promenade overlooking the sea. Weber's plan of the Villa of the Papyri is the only plan to have survived of these early excavations at Herculaneum and it was so good that the complex

has now been replicated in California, USA by J Paul Getty. The villa is one of the most sumptuous yet found in the area. It was situated on a rectangular plateau just above the Bay of Naples: Below, on the beach, was a small dock for boats. The main house was surrounded by gardens, terraces, walkways, pools, and fountains. Weber and his excavators had retrieved over ninety pieces of sculpture, the largest collection ever found. A large basin of a fountain had thirteen bronze panthers spouting water from their mouths. Outside, the main garden had wondrous views of the Bay of Naples. In the centre of the garden was a walkway built out of sixty-five columns. The gardens abounded with statues of bronze deer, Greek women, wrestlers, Pan, the "Drunken Faun" and "Hermes Resting". But scattered over the floor of one of the rooms were papyrus scrolls and wax tablets. This well may be the real treasure of the villa; for hidden away in a small room were rows upon rows of wooden shelves stacked with thousands of books. The problem was how to read them; they were badly scorched and very fragile. In 1753 Father Antonio Piaggio, a specialist in old



In 1754 excavators found 1,787 badly scorched rolls of papyrus at the villa. It was the first ancient library ever found. The

virtual reality reconstruction (above) shows the library being packed on the eve of the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79.

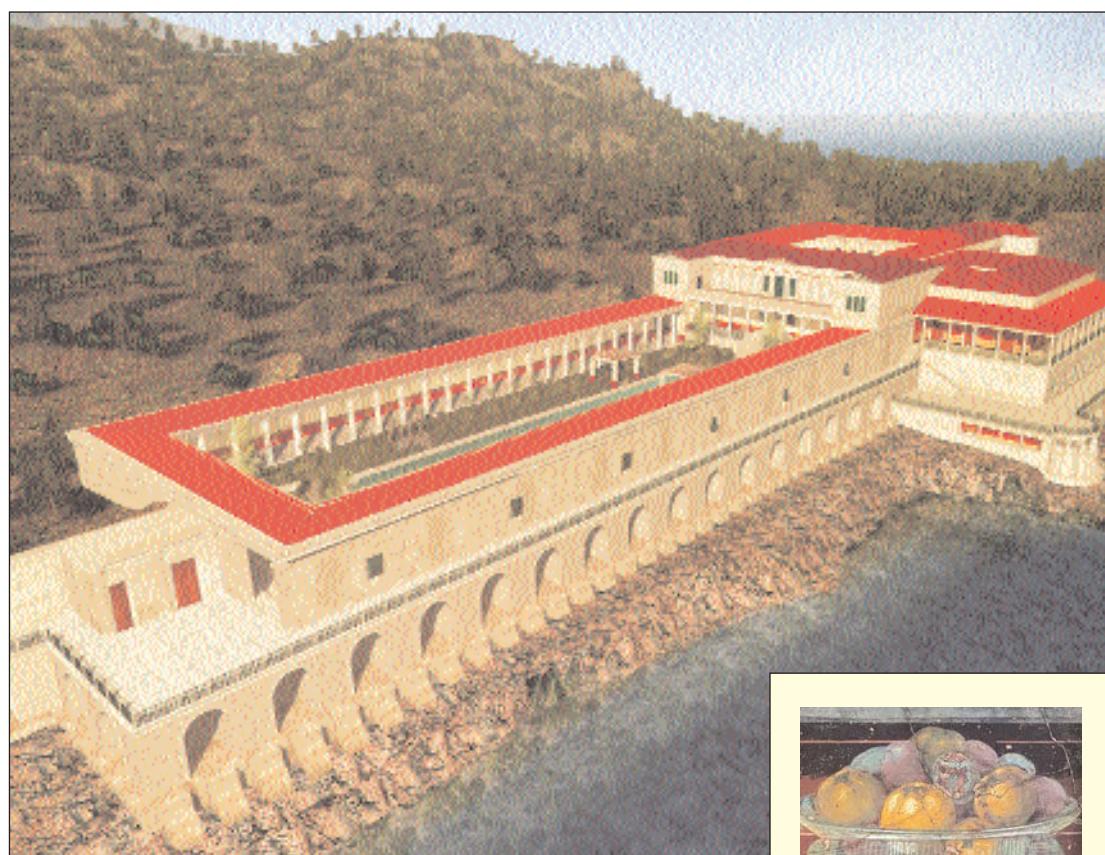
manuscripts, arrived from Rome. He looked at the disastrous attempts made to unravel the tightly wound scrolls, and decided to build a special machine to unwind the brittle books. It took four years to achieve the unrolling of just three books. By the mid 19th century some 341 had been unrolled with 195 deciphered and published. Many hundreds still needed to be unrolled and deciphered. Recently American scientists have developed a new system of reading ancient manuscripts using digital technology. These remastered works can then be

NEWS

read by scholars such as the Scandinavian classicist Professor Knut Kleve, who believes that the development of this technology is the most important advance in the archaeological world for decades. It will mean the opportunity will exist to read the recovered Roman papyri from the villa. These are known to include lost works of Aristotle, scientific works by Archimedes, mathematical treatises by Euclid, philosophical work by Epicurus, lost sections of Virgil's 'Juvenilia', comedies by Terence, tragedies by Seneca and works by the Roman poets Ennius, Accius, Catullus, Gallus, Macer and Varus. Initial results on the material suggest the villa was owned by Calpurnius Piso, the father-in-law of

to raise \$20m to start excavating and recover the library for future generations. The site was opened to the public four years ago, but has now been closed again so that archaeologists can dig out the frescoed corridor or cryptoportico on the lower ground floor. They are also conserving mosaics and frescoes already found on the top floor to protect them from damp and erosion.

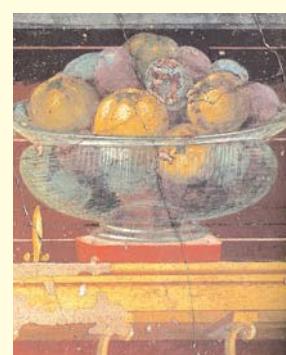
"Work can resume because we are combining archaeology with responsible conservation, which was not the case in the 1990s," said Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, head of the Herculaneum Conservation Project, which is funded by the Packard Humanities Institute to the tune of \$3 million (£1.5 million) a year.



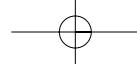
The Villa of the Papyri stretched for at least 800 feet along an escarpment overlooking the Bay of Naples. Stairs and terraces led up from the beach and private harbour to the atrium which had been rebuilt into a large entrance hall. In the centre was a marble pool and fountain surrounded by eleven statues. A wall niche held another basin in which thirteen bronze panthers spouted water from their mouths.

Julius Caesar, as some of the books were written by Philodemus, the teacher of Virgil and in-house philosopher of Piso. Work has recently stopped and the programme of decipherment is now at risk whilst flooding threatens the rest of the buried villa and library.

Eight of the world's leading scholars of ancient history wrote to The Times in 2002 demanding action and have now formed The Herculaneum Society (www.herculaneum.ox.ac.uk) which aims

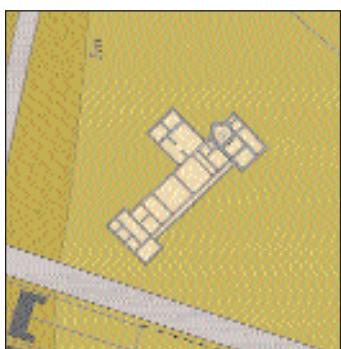


In 2009 the KAFS have been invited by the University of Texas to participate in an archaeological investigation of a similar magnificent Roman maritime villa probably owned by the family of the Emperor Nero at Oplontis which is close to Pompeii. For further information see our web site: www.kafs.co.uk It will be essential to book early as places are limited.



FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

Deerton Street



Institute of Archaeology, London, assisted by experienced 'diggers' from local archaeological groups in east and west Kent. In all, some 98 students and helpers were on site over a ten-day period.

As far as the author is aware no recent work has been carried out on the site, which was previously unknown, apart from possible amateur digging in 1872.

Internal features identified were bounded by substantial stone Roman walling covering an area of about 60 by 80 square metres. The Roman villa is sited on the west bank of a spring and faces south-east. On the east bank of Hog Brook we would uncover a Roman barn, and to the south of the spring building debris suggests further Roman buildings; A small 'Roman villa' was reported to have been grubbed up and destroyed by the farmer in 1920. The villa excavated in 1999 had all the prerequisites of a high standard of living – hypocaust heating, painted plaster, imported

Our first report in 2001 presented the finding of trial excavations at Deerton Street. The work was carried out during August 1999 by students from the KAFS and archaeology students from the

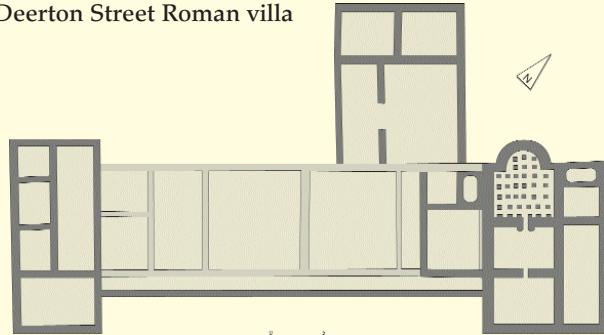
pottery, window glass, tessellated floors (it seems the mosaic floor may have been removed during Victorian excavations) and a coin series ending with coins of Arcadius (AD 395-402).

Painted wall-plaster

The total number of fragments of painted wall-plaster recovered from the seven evaluation trenches was 231 (2,572 g). Over three quarters of the fragments were monochrome, white, yellow ochre and pink being the predominant colours. Most of the plaster came from a single trench in various demolition layers. A type series has been established based on the different colours and colour combinations used. The distribution and quantification of wall-plaster types are summarised in the assessment report.

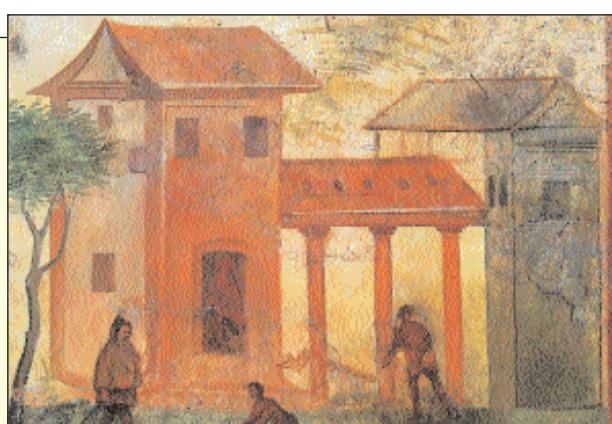
Given the small size of the assemblage it is difficult to compute the style of decoration. The many striped fragments (right), some of finely painted lines, indicate a decoration of panels and borders, with the background colour being either yellow ochre or white. Type 10 indicates the background colour of yellow ochre butting up to a white panel defined by a painted line (5mm thick) of dark red. Other panel colour schemes may be indicated by type 15 which has a pink (faded dark red?) background with a yellow ochre panel defined by a painted 3mm black band. Other panel colour schemes are type 17, pink and white colours meeting at a well defined edge, and type 18, dark red and white colours, also meeting at a

Deerton Street Roman villa



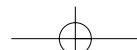
Deerton Street Roman villa is a developed form of row-house with a longitudinal lobby and a block of small rooms of different sizes at the

north east end. Two possible towers, one to the south west a true pavilion, and the one to the south east part of the bath-house.



The classic Roman image of a Roman villa from Trier in Germany identifies the type as a winged corridor house with the corridor running

along the front of the house stopping short of its two ends, which project in wings. There is probably a internal open yard behind.



FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

well defined edge. Panel-schemes are the most common form of wall-painting throughout the Roman period.

No foliate painting was recovered or recognised, but some samples (types 9 and 14) represent the imitation marble typical of dado designs of the period whilst types 11 and 12



indicate stippling usually associated with curvilinear designs.

The colours still surviving on the wall-plaster are extremely bright, almost garish, and combined with the possible polychrome mosaics would have turned the interior of the villa into quite a colourful spectacle to modern eyes.

Mosaic fragments

Many hundreds of loose tesserae were recovered; the majority in situ on 'destabilised' floors. There were, on average, three sizes, 25-30mm, 15mm and 10mm.



The layout of the apsed bath in the model (left) can be seen in the excavation of the apsed bath-house at Deerton Street (right).

Pottery

A total of 893 sherds were examined by Andrew Savage and John Cotter from Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) for the purpose of spot-dating. The pottery recovered included a wide range of local and imported fabrics. Most of these range in date from the later 1st century AD to the late 3rd and probably 4th centuries.

The coarsewares are almost all of Kentish manufacture, although sherds of a Verulamium region sandy ware Colchester mortarium, a south Spanish Dressel 20 amphora and Alice Holt ware were also identified. The fineware included substantial quantities of grey and oxidised Upchurch-type fabrics in addition to Nene-valley and Oxford colour-coated wares.

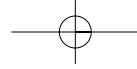
Samian (mostly central Gaulish) and central Gaulish Rhenish and Moselkeramik colour-coated ware completed the fineware assemblage of pottery sherds.

Earlier sherds which can be dated to the pre-Flavian or Flavian-Trajanic periods came from the test-pits. They include a north Gaulish butt-beaker and a sand and shell-tempered bead-rim jar. Also a south Gaulish Samian sherd was found. There were, in addition, a number of sherds of 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware and sand-tempered ware which are likely to be of a similar date.

The presence of Alice Holt ware and late Roman grog-tempered ware suggests that activity on the site probably extended into the 4th century.

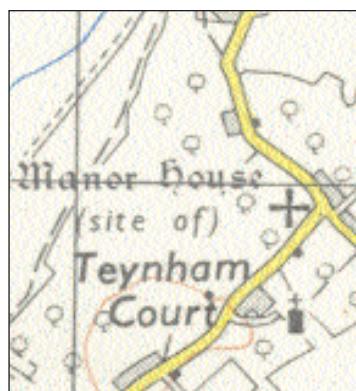
Two factors that may suggest activity on the site in the very late Roman period are the small incidence of late Roman grog-tempered ware. The other factor that should be noted is the forty-two coins recovered, some dating to the second and third quarters of the 4th century. Likewise possible Saxon rubbish pits have now been confirmed to contain sherds of Saxon pottery.

Other Saxon (and Frankish) pottery was found inside the building under a fallen late Roman flint wall and it may be the later Saxon settlers utilised still standing Roman walls into their own habitation. The proof of Saxon activity on the Roman villa site, although not unique in Kent, is worthy of note.



FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

Teynham, the Archbishops Palace



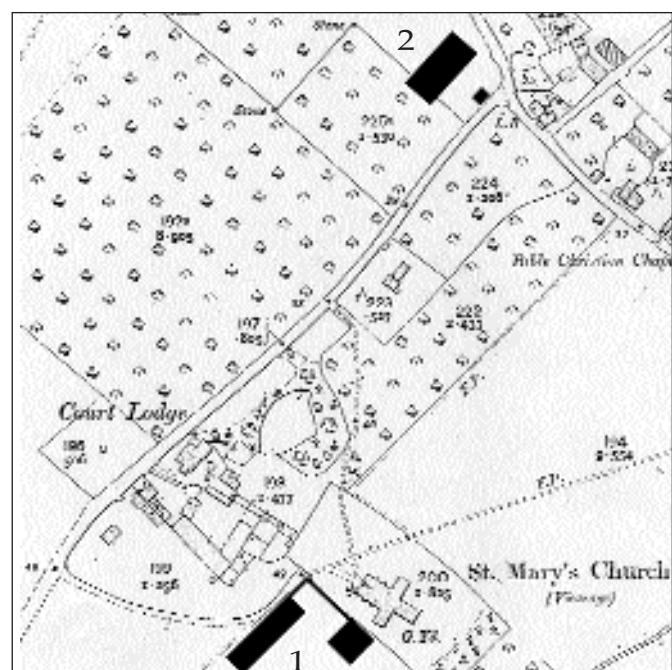
Investigation by students of the KAFS at Teynham in Kent located the site of the summer residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury where it had been mapped in the 1930's (left). It has been suggested

that the Archbishops' residence had been excavated by Brian Philp next door to the church some time in the 1970s, but the published note of the excavation suggests this particular building, which is much smaller than the main residence found by KAFS, was used for storing wine or as a hospital.

The main residence complex was located some 400 metres north of the church, and constructed of dressed stone blocks, with Caen stone carved tracery windows decorated with hand-painted coloured glass. Fragments of medieval glazed floor tiles decorated with a fleur-de-lis pattern indicate the splendour of the interior decoration,

whilst the domestic pottery found during excavation gives a date range for the ecclesiastical establishment from the 12th to 16th centuries.

Some re-used Roman building material was also found, but it is unlikely that this came from a villa. The geophysical survey also failed to reveal any traces of the usual Roman buildings associated with a villa. It is possible that the only Roman building on this site was a temple located under the church itself. The church contains a large amount of re-used Roman building ceramics,



Excavation of the palace (left) at (2). Pottery retrieved at both locations (above) and stained glass (right) from the church ditch (1). Geophysical

survey (top) at (1) indicates numerous stone buildings subsequently investigated, and found to date from the 11th to 12th centuries.

FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

including monumental drip-stones and lumps of Roman flooring material, opus signum.

The church's location, on a mound with views to the Roman Watling Street and the small (Roman?) port of Teynham, suggests it is the site of a Roman temple and not a villa, but this aspect needs more work.

The pottery found during excavation has revealed a great deal. The report by medieval pottery specialist, John Cotter, suggests that the Palace site (2) and the Church site (1) were in existence at the same time.

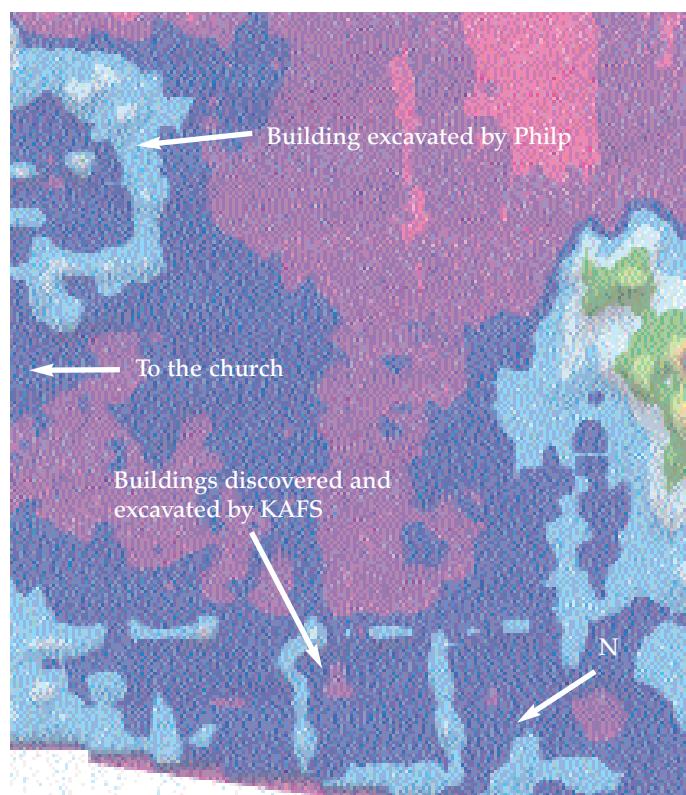
The combined total of 210 sherds (2.881kg) of pottery was recovered from the two sites, most of it medieval and post-medieval. Small amounts of Iron Age and Roman pottery occur residually on the church site, as does a single Anglo-Saxon sherd of the 5/6th century.

Neither site produced any ceramic evidence for later Saxon occupation nor any definite evidence for 11th century occupation (an observation supported by the virtual absence of early medieval Canterbury sandy ware — the typical 11/12th century ware of this area). All the early



medieval wares present appear to date from the very end of this date range, i.e. after c.1175 or 1200.

Shelly wares are the dominant early medieval type on these sites and probably persisted locally until as late as c.1250. At Canterbury they became defunct some time before this — probably by c.1225 — due to the domination of Canterbury / Tyler Hill sandy wares. The shelly wares at Teynham, mainly cooking pots, were probably made locally somewhere near the north Kent coast. The shell inclusions differ somewhat from

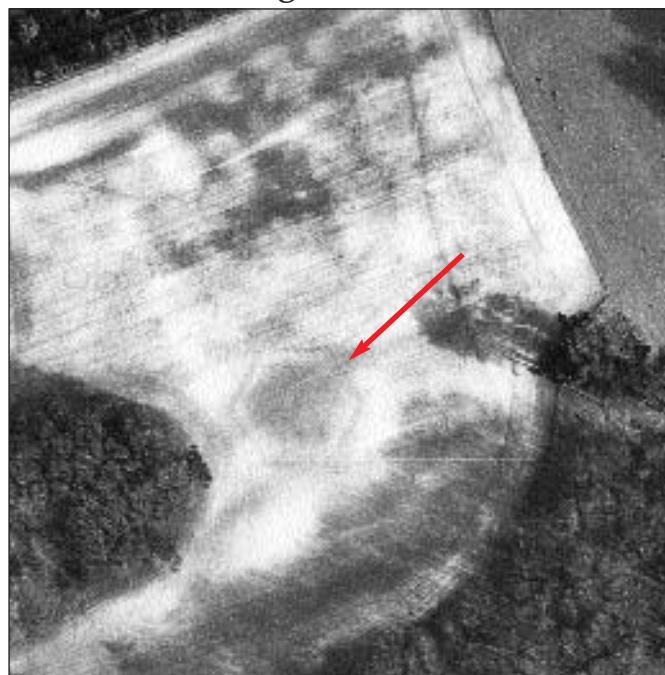


those at Canterbury, which was probably supplied by a more easterly source. As at nearby Iwade (to the west) and Faversham (to the east), Tyler Hill ware is the dominant pottery type of the 13–14th century. This comprises mostly utilitarian glazed jugs, but the palace site at Teynham also produced a fragment of a Tyler Hill louver — an elaborate type of chimney pot or roof ventilator — suggesting a building of some substance. Tyler Hill wares were supplemented by glazed fineware jugs from the London area.

Although Teynham lies only some 11 miles west of Canterbury, some of the medieval and particularly the late-medieval pottery types at Teynham are virtually unknown in Canterbury. These later pottery types almost certainly come from Wealden sources such as Maidstone and the Medway area. These include jugs and storage vessels decorated with white slip painting and undecorated coarsewares from the early 16th-century kiln at Hareplain near Biddenden. On both sites at Teynham much of the medieval and late-medieval pottery (mainly 16th century) came from residual or mixed contexts containing later pottery. A total of 37 fragments (3.120kg) of medieval floor tile was recovered from both sites, and include decorated Tyler Hill products.

FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

Star Hill at Bridge



In 2003 the KAFS was invited by the Bridge History Society to investigate a crop-mark on top of Star Hill in the shape of a hexagon. The NMR Monument Report summarises the feature as: 'Hexagonal feature with dark centre seen on air photograph, possibly a World War II military installation'.

However, research had uncovered a 19th century map by the Reverent Vine in his book 'Caesar in Kent'. Vine thought it was a small fort, one of two in the grounds of Bourne Park.

An ideal opportunity had therefore arisen to carry out an archaeological training excavation on a crop-mark officially considered at the very best to be a feature associated with the landscaping of Bourne Park or either built as a military installation during World War II.

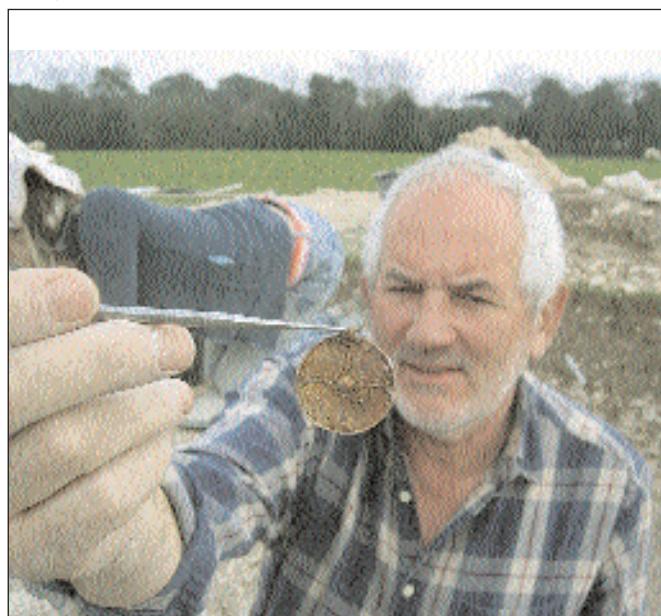
During May Bank Holiday in 2003 investigation by the Field School of three points of the hexagon enabled the students to find the centre of the hexagon where stripping of the turf revealed a circular pit, about three metres in diameter cut into the chalk. The pit had been pillaged some time in the past but sherds of Late Iron Age pottery and Medieval pottery do suggest a cremation pit of Late Iron Age/ Early Roman period plundered during the Medieval period.

Further stripping of the topsoil in 2004 within the perimeter of the hexagon failed to find any tree-planting pits, indeed the only features revealed were a number of rubbish pits dug into

the chalk by soldiers during the First and Second World Wars.

In 2005 further work was undertaken on the south side of the hexagon where almost immediately an east-west orientated grave cut into the chalk was revealed with a number of seventh century Anglo-Saxon coins exposed in the disturbed fill. Further work revealed a possible family group of 12 graves orientated to the hexagon feature with Graves 3, 4 and 7 cutting the fill of the hexagon feature ditch.

The graves were an obvious target for treasure hunters and full excavation proceeded with the appropriate license obtained. Most of the graves contained artefacts that were Treasure Trove and include a gold pendant, glass palm cup, Frankish pottery vessels, beads, buckles, spears, knives, cowrie shells, loom weights and over 60 silver Anglo-Saxon coins.



Worked flint and Iron Age pottery sherds were also retrieved by sieving the topsoil within the excavated area. The worked flint is the subject of a specialist report which dates the assemblage to the Neolithic and suggests that stone tool manufacture was taking place on site.

The constant retrieval of scattered fresh Iron-Age pottery sherds throughout the site did suggest that Iron-Age occupation was a possible feature of the site and investigation of this aspect should form part of the forthcoming Research Design.

Land at Star Hill has a complex mass of crop-marks revealed by air photographs (above left).

FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

They cover an area of approximately 5 hectares to the west of the A2 (Watling Street). The crop-marks are reported in the RCHME Mapping Project No. 1077099 dated 01 October to 1986-01.

The crop-marks show a large number of ploughed-out round barrows sitting astride the course of the Roman Watling Street within the Scheduled Monument area whilst to the north-west are a large number of smaller ditched barrows. To the south-west there are a number of possible rectangular enclosures which as yet have not been investigated.

The field in question is adjacent to the Scheduled Monument KE71 which currently

covers a linear area alongside the A2 road. In 2006 we returned to the site after consultation with the British Museum and after formulating a Research Design which set out the procedures to investigate a larger area of 150x50m.

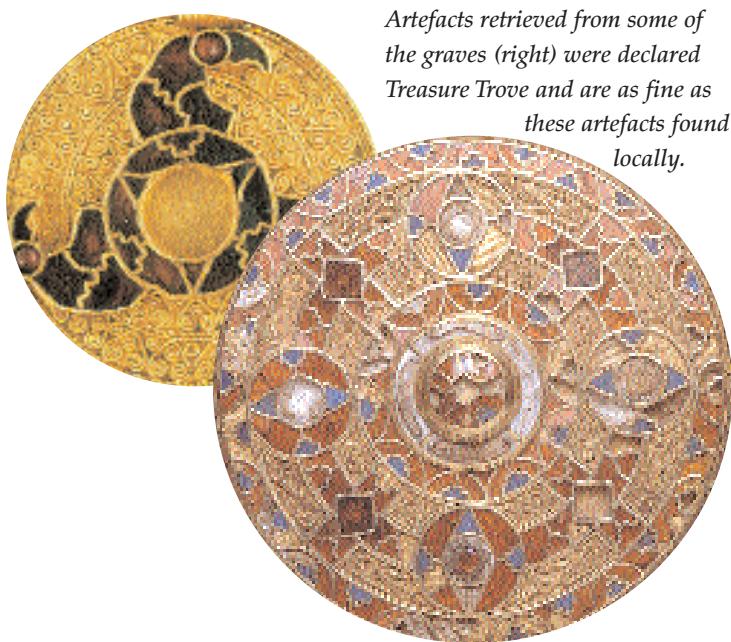
Over 90 Anglo-Saxon graves were revealed along with Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age buildings and features.

Some of the Anglo-Saxon graves cut into the hexagon which means it pre-dates them and is most likely to be Roman.

No further work was carried out on the graves but we were able to investigate the Prehistoric and Roman archaeology with important results.



Excavation of three corners of the hexagon enabled us to locate the centre of the feature which on investigation contained a circular pit which had probably contained cremation urns. Pottery retrieved from the fill of the hexagonal ditch gives a date from 150BC to AD50. A number of Anglo-Saxon graves cut into the fill of the ditch (below) and these can be dated to the 7th century. The hexagonal ditch was surveyed and beautifully cut as the corners show. The evidence is conclusive that the hexagonal feature is unique and probably Roman.



Artefacts retrieved from some of the graves (right) were declared Treasure Trove and are as fine as these artefacts found locally.



FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

Bax Farm



In August 2007 archaeological students and members of the KAFS descended on Bax Farm, just to the west of Faversham, and adjacent to Watling Street, to investigate the probable site of a Roman villa found by field-walking and test-pitting as part of the Swale Archaeological Survey by Paul Wilkinson in 1998.

Our first evaluation trench' which focussed on the highest concentration of surface finds exposed a cornucopia of archaeological features including the concrete base of a large corn mill, a sunken road or 'hollow-way', Anglo-Saxon buildings and the remains of a massive stone-built Roman bath house. The masonry structure, c.10m across, enclosed a central octagonal *frigidarium* pool over 5m across (right).

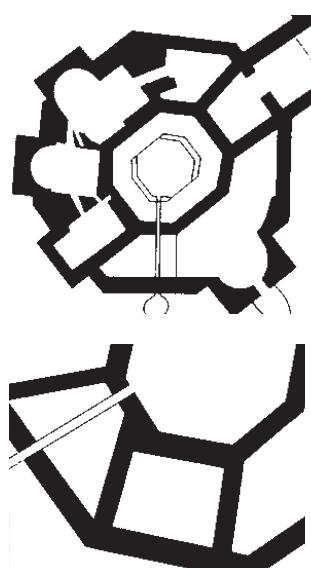
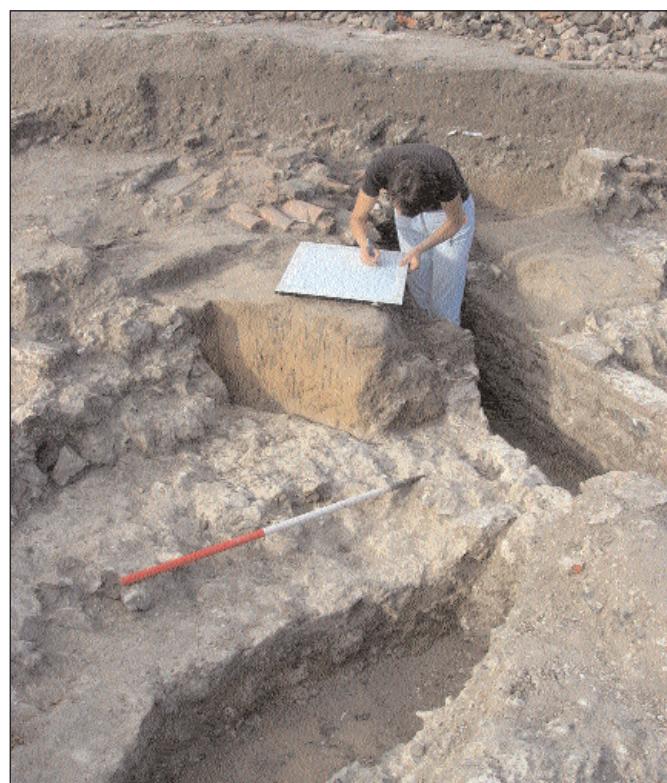
Some rooms had underfloor heating, with alcoves containing hot plunge baths. The excavated base of a rectangular pillar suggests the bath house was arcaded.

In the early 5th century the bath house was rebuilt and a smaller circular pool built over the central area. The hypocaust brick conduit was blocked off, and a lead pipe -still in situ- installed to drain the pool and fountain whose base still survives. This elaborate and exotic building has its roots in buildings built in Rome by Constantine as Christian baptisteries in the 4th century.

Octagonal buildings of this type are to be found in the West Country at Lufton and Holcombe, others are further afield in Ravenna. The function of these elaborate and exotic buildings has often been discussed but most experts keep coming back to the idea that the astonishing octagonal *frigidarium* in the centre could have been used for Christian baptism or even Jewish sacred bathing, a scenario reinforced by the finding at Bax Farm of a Roman lead seal probably depicting the Jewish menorah on site. Some rooms had underfloor heating as well as alcoves which contained hot plunge baths. It is logical to assume that above the central pool and its fountain was a vaulted ceiling carried on arcading or columns; Some elements of a unique stucco ceiling had survived, and possibly a large dome set on pendentives that would have echoed and

reflected the sound of cascading water. Ceilings such as these would have been possible with the columns or arcading bearing the vertical pressure, and the surrounding ground floor rooms providing a buttressing effect to counteract outward thrust.

This is very sophisticated Roman engineering and belongs more to the late Roman and Byzantine Mediterranean world and has to open a discussion on why and how late were such Roman influences prevalent in Roman Britain. We plan to continue excavations in 2009.



The plan (left) shows the astonishing octagonal building or frigidarium at Holcombe in Devon which, along with Lufton in Somerset, is of the type found at Bax Farm (below left). Also found at Bax Farm was a lead seal (top left) embossed with a five branched menorah which may suggest the building was used for Christian baptism or Jewish sacred bathing.

FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

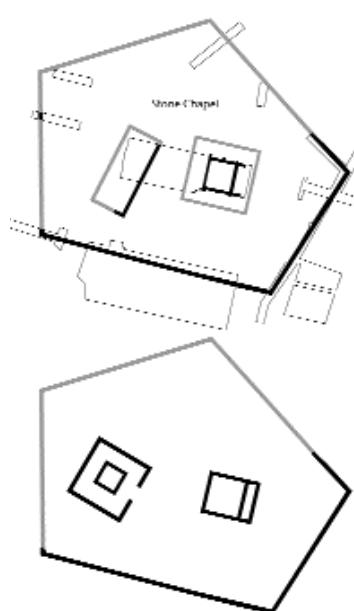
Stone Chapel

In August 2006 archaeological students and members of the Field School investigated Stone Chapel Field, just to the west of Faversham, and adjacent to Watling Street, to unravel a mystery associated with the ruined Roman building that was built on in the Saxon period as a church.

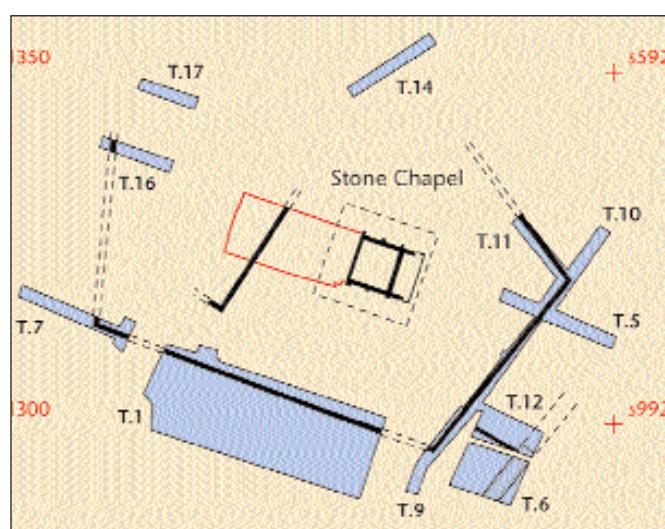
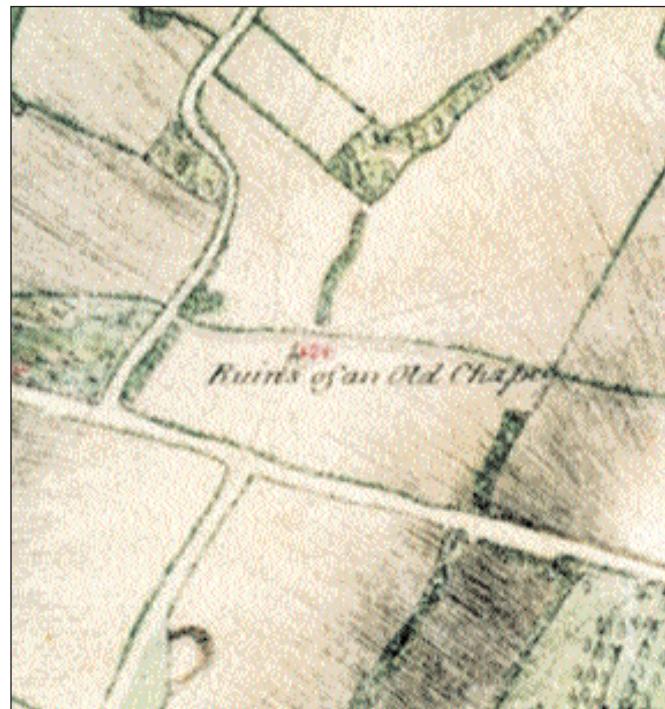
This configuration is unique in Britain and the big question was "what was the original function of the Roman building".

Two weeks of investigation by almost one hundred students revealed that the ruined Roman building is probably not Roman, but likely to have been built by St Augustine in the 6th century, almost certainly on top of the remains of a Romano-Celtic pagan temple, set within its own precinct with other high-status Roman buildings both inside and outside a sacred enclosure. These Roman buildings had stone walls and tiled roofs and were finished internally with decorated painted plaster. The Roman precinct wall was massively built of flint nodules set in mortar and overlaid earlier Roman levels.

Fragments of stone columns suggest that the ambulatory or portico of the Romano-Celtic temple probably had a sloping roof supported by columns sitting on either an external dwarf wall or stone pads. Colonel Meates had excavated Stone Chapel in the 1970's but failed to find evidence of the ambulatory or portico, strongly suggesting the outer wall of the temple did consist of columns; indeed part of a stone column is still to be seen built into the ruined nave of the Anglo-Saxon church.



Excavation of 17 trenches around the Scheduled Monument found the Roman perimeter wall (right) which is sufficient evidence to put forward the proposition that the monument is not, as thought, a Roman mausoleum but a Romano-Celtic temple of a known type and configuration. The layout of the temple buildings may be as shown (left) with the store room under the Saxon church and the temple to the west.

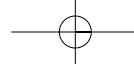


Trench 1 (above) was stripped by hand and revealed the collapsed Roman perimeter wall dating from AD370-400

which is very late for this type of building. The wall was robbed in AD1150-1350, no doubt to build the chapel.



The interim report on Stone Chapel can be downloaded as a PDF from the KAFS web site, as can all KAFS reports. Full colour paper copies are available at £15.



FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

Hog Brook Roman Building



The 2004-5 summer excavations at Hog Brook by students of the KAFS revealed an exceptionally well-preserved early Roman stone-built aisled building which continued in use into the Saxon period. Full details of the excavation will be published in the Post-excavation Assessment Report due to be finished in early 2009.

Hog Brook is close to Deerton Street and just to the north of Watling Street (the A2). From a geophysical survey, conducted on a KAFS course, it is clear that the structure was not isolated, but associated with other buildings in the vicinity, including the large Roman villa to the west of the spring.

The Roman villa estate at Deerton Street is one of a number found in recent years along the line of Watling Street by Paul Wilkinson. All the estates are located around a spring, set back from Watling Street and with easy access to

the sea. The area usually farmed was about 2000 acres per villa. At Deerton Street, some of the modern field boundaries still form field divisions of 20 actus square, the classic field size from the Roman period.

Excavation of the Roman basilical building revealed twenty substantial rectangular stone piers still surviving (above right) to the first course with the late Roman sand floor intact. Buried under the demolition rubble and laying on the sand floor were the remains of one of the fallen Roman rectangular columns (Pier A), built of mortared Kentish ragstone and Tufa blocks with a double line of Roman tiles spaced horizontally about every metre. About five metres of the fallen pier survived.

Under the fallen pier debris there were the remains of an articulated skeleton of a small cow and sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery subsequently



Field-walking located the demolition 'halo' of a large Roman stone building which on investigation in 2004-2005 proved to be 35.70m (117ft 2") long and 15.40m (50ft 7") wide (above). The building was built

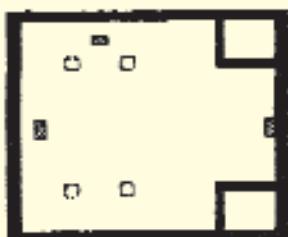
to Roman measurements, the width at 15.40m is about 52pm (Roman feet, the pes Monetalis of 296mm length) and the length at 35.70m is about one actus (of 35.50m). The roof was tiled (above top).

dated to the mid 6th century.

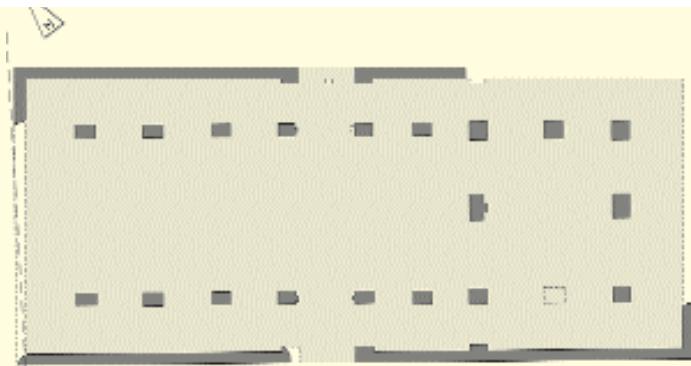
Stamped Samain pottery from the Roman builders' trench date the construction of this massive stone basilical building from 80 to 110AD whilst Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds and a copper alloy Anglo-Saxon brooch found laying on the late Roman sandy floor under the collapsed tiled roof show the building continued in use until at least the early 7th century.

The building is thought to have been destroyed by fire as fragments of the burnt roof timbers still survived under the fallen tiled roof.

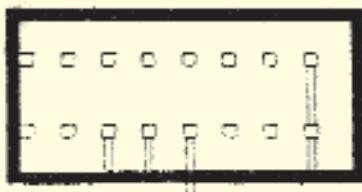
FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW



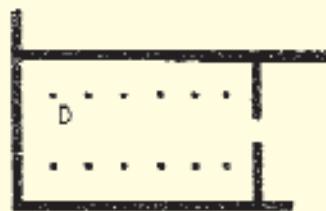
Holbury, Hants. 1:60



Hog Brook, Kent. 1:60



Ickleton, Cambs. 1:60



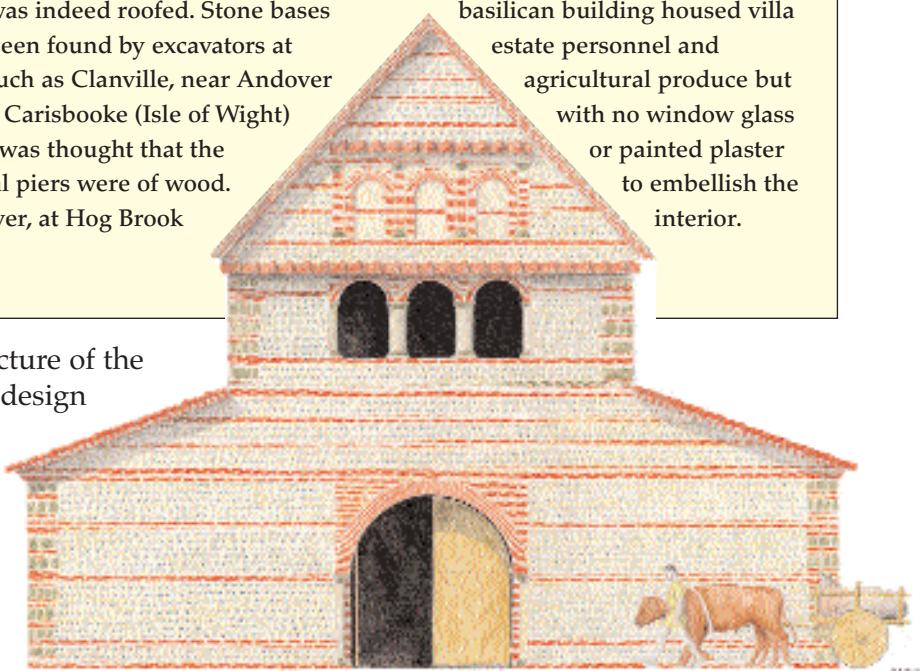
Spoonley Wood, Glos. 1:60

The basilican barn found at Hog Brook by Paul Wilkinson is usually associated with a type of Roman villa found in Britain but not unknown on the continent.

There is dispute over whether the basilican building had a roofed nave or an open central courtyard. At Hogbrook the evidence of the fallen tiled roof confirms that the central nave was indeed roofed. Stone bases have been found by excavators at sites such as Clanville, near Andover and at Carisbooke (Isle of Wight) and it was thought that the vertical piers were of wood. However, at Hog Brook

one of the fallen stone piers was exposed by KAFS archaeologists and shows the building was constructed of stone with a timber and tiled roof.

Hog Brook is one of the largest rural basilican buildings found in Britain, at 35m (117ft) longer than Ickleton (78ft) and Spoonley Wood (60ft). The main villa at Hog Brook is less than 150 metres away and it is likely that the basilican building housed villa estate personnel and agricultural produce but with no window glass or painted plaster to embellish the interior.



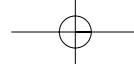
With so much surviving from the structure of the building it is possible to state that the design was of an arcaded stone building with clerestory lighting, a separate nave with two aisles, all roofed in tile, and of a type recognised by Collingwood, and Richmond.

The building shows that for this Roman villa estate at least, a basilical prototype was drawn upon for the aisled building, and that in form it had much more in common with a basilica in a Roman forum or military camp than with the normal timber 'work-hall' as defined by John T. Smith.

Why such an architectural sophisticated stone building should have been built so early in the Kentish countryside can probably be answered by two words - agricultural produce.

It is possible to reconstruct the basilican building at Hog Brook because of the discovery at Meonstoke of the fallen facade (above) which shows the norm for these Roman buildings was a clerestory with separate nave and aisle roofs as suggested by Collingwood, Richmond and others.

J T Smith has in recent years postulated a single span roof which, until the discovery at Meonstoke, was the prevailing orthodoxy. It may be the case for simpler buildings but for Meonstoke and Hog Brook the evidence indicates a link with larger basilical buildings with a Mediterranean heritage.



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load and unload alongside this huge barn or work-hall with ease.

The sophisticated style of building, and its early date, suggest that the Roman administration were involved in developing the agricultural resources of the recently conquered territories of the *Cantiaci*.

In 1978 John Hadman, in discussing the use and construction of Roman aisled buildings in Roman Britain, was emphatic "that there was no magic in

The spring at Deerton Street is called Hog Brook. To the west (left) is a large and substantial Roman villa found by the Field School and excavated over four summer campaigns. The villa is about 49m (160ft) long and includes a substantial apsed bath suite decorated with fine painted plaster and a tessellated floor.

Field-walking to the east (right) of the spring identified the site of another substantial stone building. On investigation this turned out to be a huge aisled stone barn built in the first century and surviving as a structure well into the Saxon period. Roman coins show late activity in the third and fourth centuries.

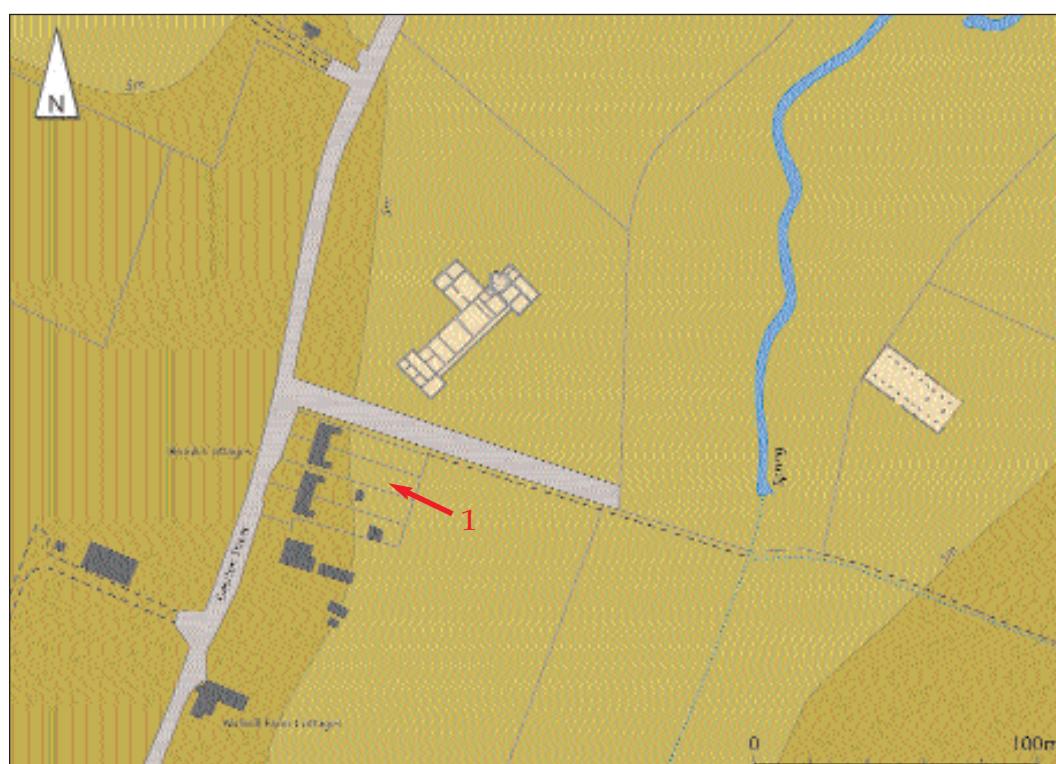
The Roman administration needed huge amounts of grain to feed the armies of Britain and the Rhine and this building, established in the 1st century in one of the many villa estates built in the most fertile area of Kent, with its large side entrances and a artificial deepwater channel that would have allowed barges to

their method of construction. The use of two rows of roof-supports to provide greater stability and width is a logical step and one which could, and probably did, occur independently. On the continent convincing close parallels are few....and this type of building may be, like corn dryers, largely a Romano-British phenomenon" (Hadman 1978, 188).

Of course the material of construction was presumed to be timber, and Hadman suggested that aisled buildings "naturally occurred in greater numbers where timber for their construction was readily at hand" (Hadman 1978, 189).

Over 120 examples of this type of timber aisled Roman building have been found in Britain (1997) with only a few identified in Europe. J T Smith has outlined the function and social implications of such buildings and suggested its use as a 'work-hall' probably with a dual use, that of living accommodation and agricultural activity (Smith J T 1963, 1-30)

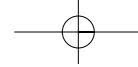
J T Smith, a vernacular architect had suggested that these aisled buildings were more akin to medieval and post-medieval aisled barns.



The plots of land (1) set into the corner of Actus 27 (above) are just to the south of the Roman villa at Deerton Street. Each plot is measured in the

North German foot of 12 thumbs or 36 barleycorns laid end to end. The configuration of the plots survived through the medieval period until

modern times when the medieval dwellings were demolished and replaced with council houses.

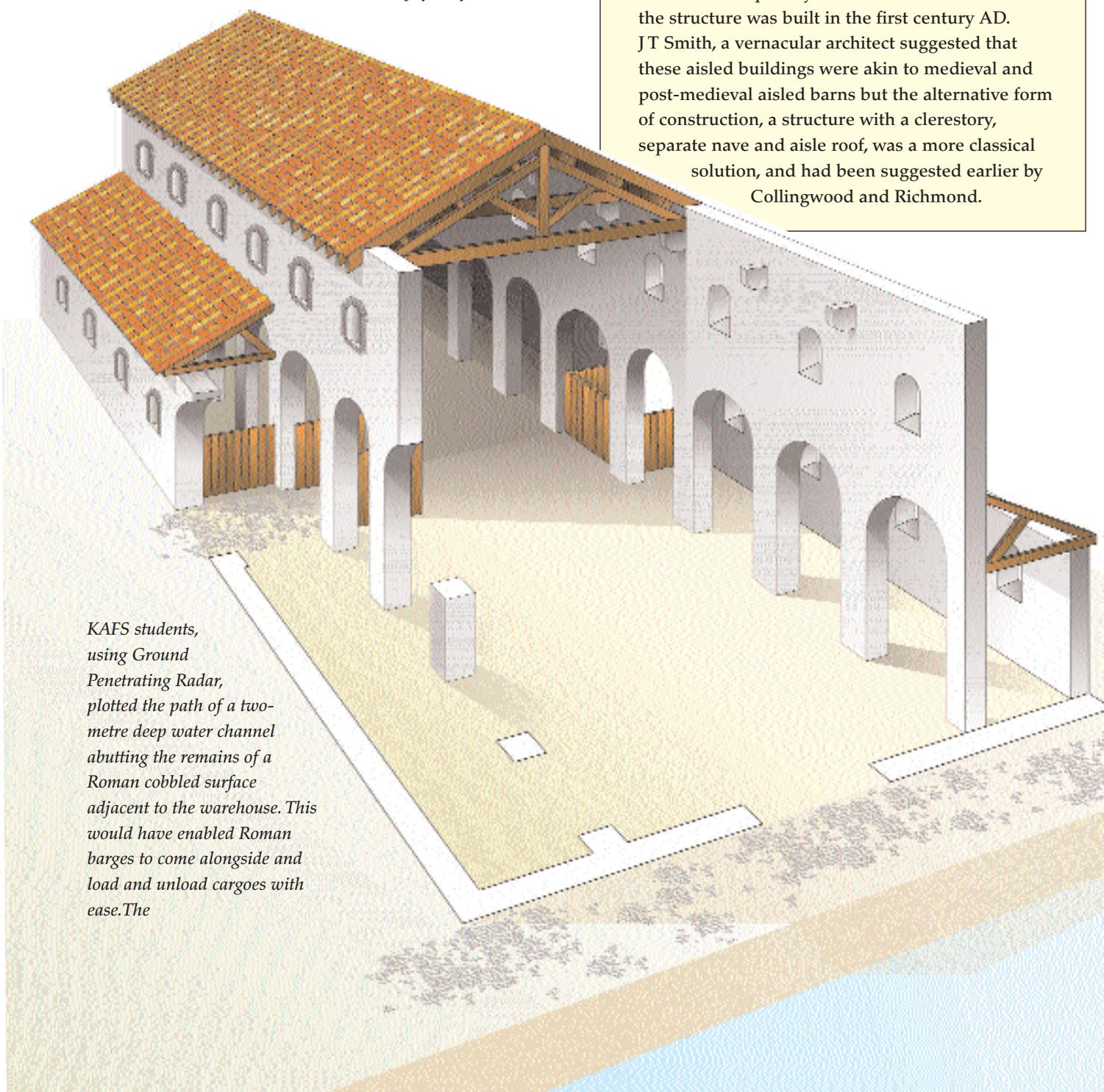


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Under the demolished Roman building archaeologists from KAFS found the late Roman sandy floor surface was littered with animal bones, fallen roof tiles and Anglo-Saxon pottery.

The reconstruction of the roof, resting on stone corbals, is based on the size of Roman nails found in the excavation and the two basilica roofs postulated for the Roman forts of Birdoswald on Hadrian's Wall and Saalburg in Germany (far left).



Ground plan of the aisled barn showing the twenty columns, the two side entrances and the surviving outer walls. Pottery found on the last Roman sandy floor is Anglo-Saxon and dating from the late-fifth and early-sixth centuries. Roman coins found in the make-up of the floor indicate activity in the fourth and fifth centuries whilst Roman pottery in the foundations indicate the structure was built in the first century AD. JT Smith, a vernacular architect suggested that these aisled buildings were akin to medieval and post-medieval aisled barns but the alternative form of construction, a structure with a clerestory, separate nave and aisle roof, was a more classical solution, and had been suggested earlier by Collingwood and Richmond.

FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

Syndale Park/Durolevum



The 2003-8 summer and Easter KAFS excavations took place on area of pasture land at Syndale Park, near Faversham, Kent. The land is in the ownership of trustees and is currently under pasture grazed by sheep.

However, plans exist for KCC Highways to build a road bypass over the area under investigation and an extensive hotel development is planned for some areas of the park.

In 2003 the Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS) was invited by the trustees to investigate the park with a view to enabling them to be informed on the extent and quality of the archaeology surviving in the park.

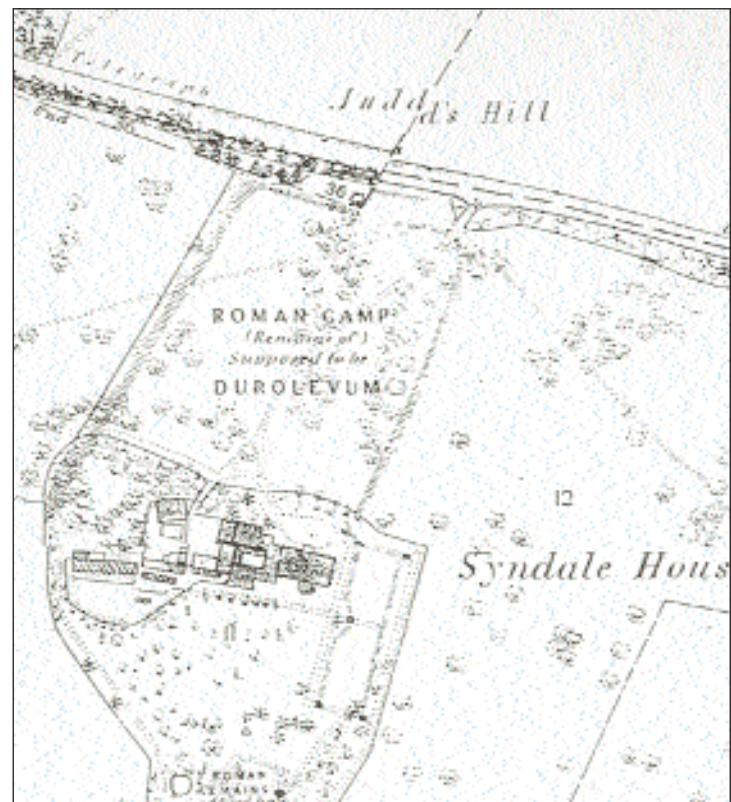
The area had attracted the attention of archaeologists from as early as the 18th century with Hasted, Hawley, Philp, and Time Team all making their own contribution to our knowledge of the park.

A programme of field survey and geophysical investigation supported by limited excavation by the KAFS has now shed new light on the nature and extent of monuments within the park, which in turn has led to a wider investigation of the land north and south of the Roman Watling Street which itself runs east/west through the park (right). The current focus of attention in 2008 was an area located at the eastern edge of the park and south of Watling Street.

This area was originally investigated by Colonel Hawley in September 1922, where he reported that: "a paved hearth and wall foundations" had been revealed (Whiting & Hawley 1931).

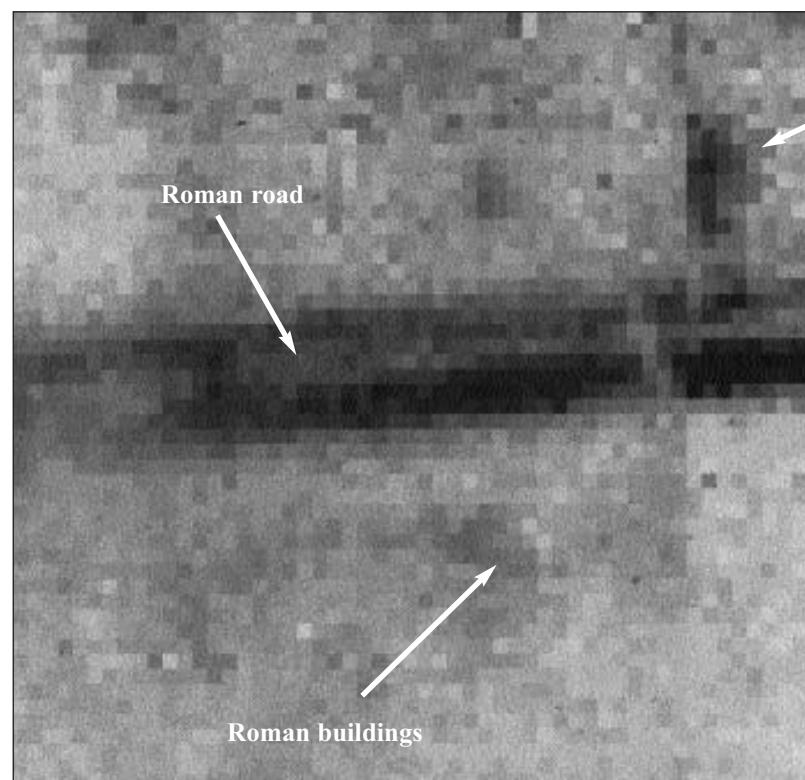
On investigation of his trench by KAFS the 'paved hearth' turned out to be a monumental sarcophagus built out of chalk blocks and Kentish Ragstone with a terracotta ceramic lid covering the grave slot. The monument is late, having been built over the remains of a 3rd century kiln.

The terracotta lid has been damaged sometime in the past, but the grave has not been robbed and the burial is still in situ. Other features exposed were a Roman kiln or oven, Roman cremation burials, Roman Watling Street and a large Roman



The OS map of 1860 shows the supposed Roman fort and the site of Durolevum. A 'Time team' investigation found no evidence of a Roman fort but failed to

uncover the massive late Iron Age fortified settlement recently excavated by SWAT Archaeology prior to commercial development of Syndale House.



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double ditch dated by coins and pottery to the 1st century and dug before Watling Street, itself dated to about AD 50.

The study area under investigation lies within a rich archaeological landscape. To the west the standing remains of Stone Chapel are a Scheduled Monument and were subject to a recent investigation by the KAFS who concluded it was built as a Romano-Celtic temple, and then probably rebuilt as an early Christian church.

Investigation by Hawley in 1926-31 within Syndale Park to the west found the remains of Roman houses alongside the A2 (Watling Street). In Syndale Park itself he found the remains of two skeletons (Whiting & Hawley 1931).

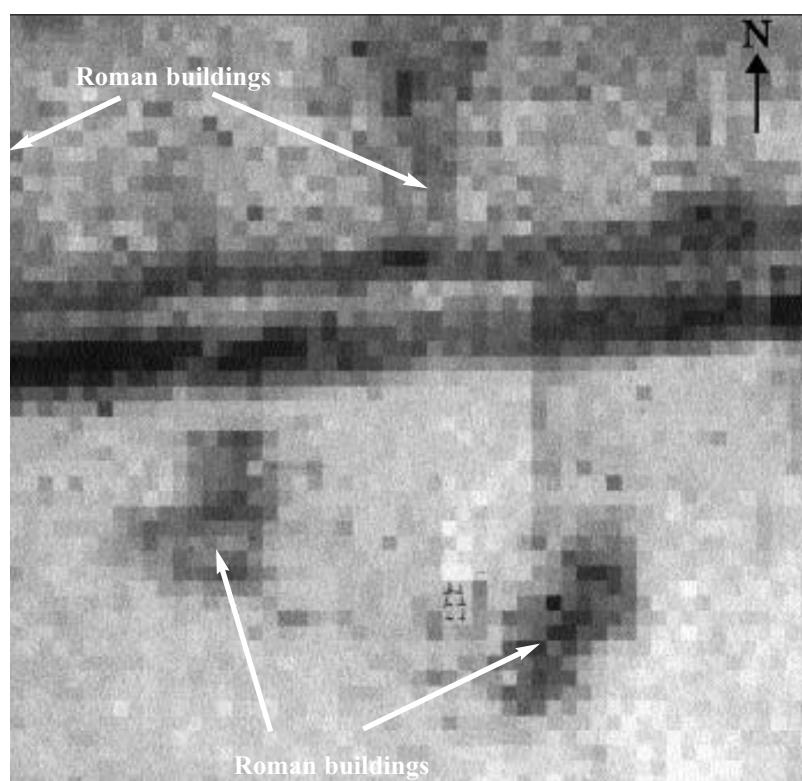
In 2004-7 the KAFS found a number of Roman cremations, the remains of Watling Street and adjacent Roman buildings which is likely to be the Roman small town of Durolevum (Practical Archaeology Issues 2-7).

To the east of the area under investigation is the Anglo-Saxon cemetery of Kings Field which in the 19th century was destroyed by workmen constructing the railway. Our only survival, from what is probably the most important Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Kent, is what Mr Gibbs, the local grocer, managed to buy from the workmen.

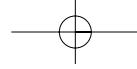


The Roman small town of Durolevum is located by Roman road maps 7 miles from Canterbury and 13 miles from Rochester. The town is shown (above) on the Peutinger map and is also recorded in the Antonine Itinerary.

'Duro' indicates the name of a fort and is a Celtic name. A L F Rivet suggests the name can be interpreted as 'fort on the smooth-flowing river' and suggests an early Roman fort can be expected, possibly the place where Aulus Plautius left a Roman garrison in AD43.



A stretch of the main Roman road in Britain (Watling Street) was located in Syndale Park by map analysis and subsequent geophysical survey (left). Excavation has shown it is two separate roads, with one partly built over the earlier road, itself dating from AD50. Areas of cobbling (above) adjacent to the road surround low-status Roman buildings built of timber, wattle & daub with thatched roofs.



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Of particular interest at Kings Field was the variety of the grave goods which ranged from late Roman pottery, gold Anglo-Saxon jewellery, probably made at Faversham, to Christian British-made hanging bowls from western Britain.

This diversity of material culture was recognised at Kings Field in the 19th century and was again clearly in evidence during the 2007 investigation of the study area.

One of the Roman cremation pots retrieved from the study area had Christian graffiti on it and, close by, a gilded copper alloy decorative mount was recovered probably dating from the early Anglo-Saxon period (c.450-650).

Interestingly, the gilded

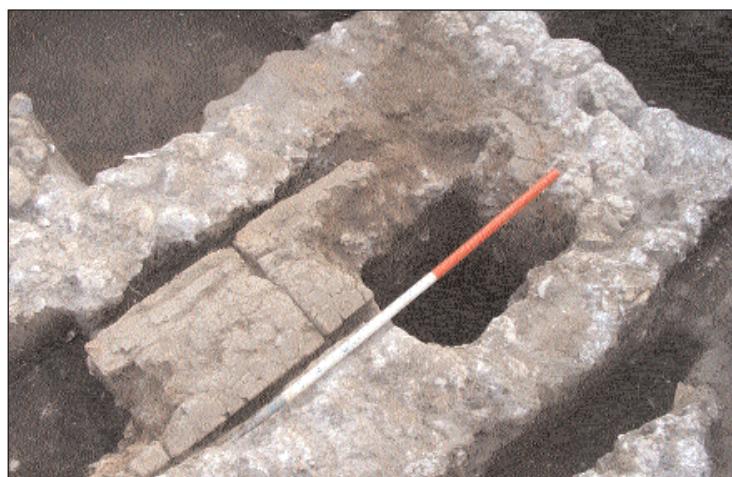


The investigation by 'Time Team' at Syndale Park was extremely useful. Although the main objective of finding the Roman fort was

unsuccessful, the amount of survey and interpretation done allowed the KAFS to build on this work and add to the interpretation of the landscape.

repoussé decoration had a symmetrical design of what appears to be two opposed animals or birds which is reminiscent of designs found on late Roman or early post-Roman buckles.

The study area lies within a rich archaeological landscape which at present is little understood, and unfortunately there is not as yet in East Kent a research agenda led by English Heritage or KCC. Work by the KAFS has located the small Roman town of Durolevum, the associated cemeteries, confirmed the route of Watling Street, clarified the function of Stone Chapel as a Romano-Celtic temple and located an late Iron Age fortified settlement and a possible early Roman marching camp.



The monumental sarcophagus (above) built out of chalk blocks and stone with a ceramic lid covering the grave. The burial is late, having been built over the

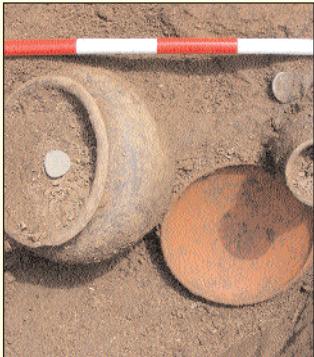
remains of a 3rd century kiln. The ceramic lid has been damaged sometime in the past, but the grave has not been robbed and the lead coffin is still in situ.



The 'sacred' well located by 'Time Team' is here being excavated by KAFS. It dates from the late 3rd century and contained domestic rubbish, pottery, animal bones and over 50 Roman coins.

Paul Wilkinson (above) from KAFS and Phil Harding from 'Time Team' about to step out of a trench in Syndale Park.

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Field-work, including a geophysical survey, has identified the original, lost route of Watling Street just to the west of Faversham. Students from the KAFS in 2004 spent a weekend

excavating a section across the buried road which runs parallel to but south of the modern A2.

The Roman road surface was in extremely good condition and consisted of coarse sand mixed with fine gravel. Large flint stones had been used as a retaining kerb, and incidentally show up extremely well on the geophysical survey undertaken by Malcolm Davies.

Sitting on top of this Roman road surface were some 14 Roman coins, two of which were silver. It seems the road was intensively used and then immediately went out of use at the end of the Roman period, suggesting a complete breakdown of Roman traffic in this part of Kent. The road had not been used in the medieval, post-medieval or modern period, and was found buried under almost a metre of soil. The new road had been realigned some 10 metres to the north at an unknown date. On the north edge of the road was found the frontage of a substantial stone-

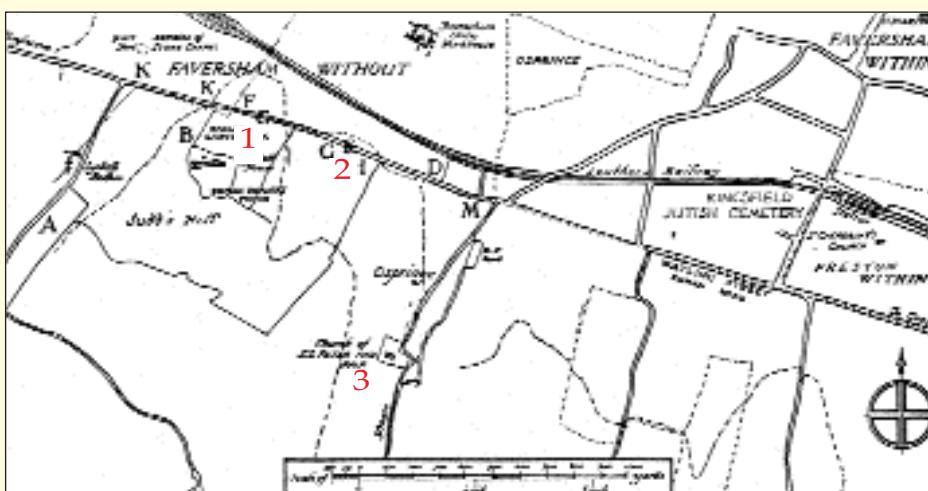
built Roman building with stone-carved classical architectural details. In the doorway leading directly on to Watling Street student excavators found large pieces of a broken Roman pot and a quern stone, and just inside the entrance and sitting on the cobbled floor were the remains of a Roman hob-nailed boot.

The archaeological evidence suggests this building had been abandoned in some hurry, with household artifacts scattered around.

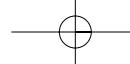
The geophysical survey indicates numerous other Roman buildings in the near vicinity. Some of these Roman buildings were hand-excavated down to their preserved remains in 2005-6 by students from the KAFS.

Field-walking, again by Field School students, has recovered sufficient data to suggest the main area of Roman settlement is a ribbon development along Watling Street, but a test excavation has uncovered a Roman coin and foundations deeply buried under alluvial material 600 metres to the north of Watling Street.

Given the unusual number of Roman burials in Dressel 20 Romano-Spanish amphoras found in recent years along this stretch of Watling Street, it can be suggested that this new discovery of Roman foundations may indicate the location of a Roman port which served the Roman communities along Watling Street, of which the small Roman town at Durolevum was one.



Investigations at Syndale Park by the KAFS have located exactly the Roman town of Durolevum (1&2). There are more Roman buildings (3) around the fresh water springs of Ospringe. These will be investigated in 2010. Work will continue on the late Iron Age fortified settlement on top of Syndale Hill (1).



FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

Blacklands, Faversham



The site of Blacklands is situated in an area of arable land at School Farm, just to the north of the study centre of the KAFS, near Faversham. The land is in the ownership of Martin Thomas and is currently under arable production.

However, ploughing is destroying the buried monuments to an alarming degree. Full colour pictorial mosaics found in earlier investigations in Building A no longer exist having been destroyed by farming activity over the last few years.

In 1996 Paul Wilkinson, as part of his research for a PhD thesis, investigated the documentary evidence for Roman villas in the Faversham District, and had noted that in the Victoria County History:

"Here it will suffice to observe that at Blacklands, in Ewell, a mile east of Faversham, is thought, somewhat vaguely and suspiciously, to be the site of a Roman villa which was destroyed by fire"

The site of Blacklands was unknown to modern archaeologists. However, three documents were researched to pinpoint the exact whereabouts of Blacklands.

The first was the Rental Survey of Faversham Abbey of 1515 which itemises:

"Ewell Poondes adjacent to the said pasture and containing 8 acres of pasture and marsh in respect whereof pasture 3 acres and lying next to Blackland"

The second document is a parchment map made by Christopher Saxton in September 1590 which places the field called 'Blacklands' just north of the then unknown Roman complex

The third was a manuscript and map bought by the Faversham Society in 1996 and marked 'surveyed by John Wood in 1614' which pinpoints 'Black Landes' again to the north of the then unknown Roman complex whilst the fields which contains buried Roman buildings were called 'Great and Little Snagg Fielde'. Snagg is derived from Old Norse and can mean hidden obstructions; no doubt the buried Roman

monuments were 'snagging' the medieval plough.

Of particular interest is an Anglo Saxon charter dating from AD 815 which names the water inlet or *fleot* leading to Blacklands as '*ealh-fleot*'. The word *ealh* means a pagan temple or, in more general terms, a sanctuary.

After the discovery of the site by field-walking Paul Wilkinson excavated a small area with Brian Philp in 1997. Later Peter Kendall from English Heritage generously offered to conduct a geophysical survey which Andy Payne carried out with stunning results (below, right).



Excavating and drawing up the 6th century post holes built into the Roman Building A. The view is to the south west over the rural 'cockpit' theatre depression and towards the fresh water springs. The

plough zone can be seen to be only about 20cm which means that if this site is ploughed with modern machinery it will be destroyed with the major loss of a Romano-Gallic type of rural sanctuary.

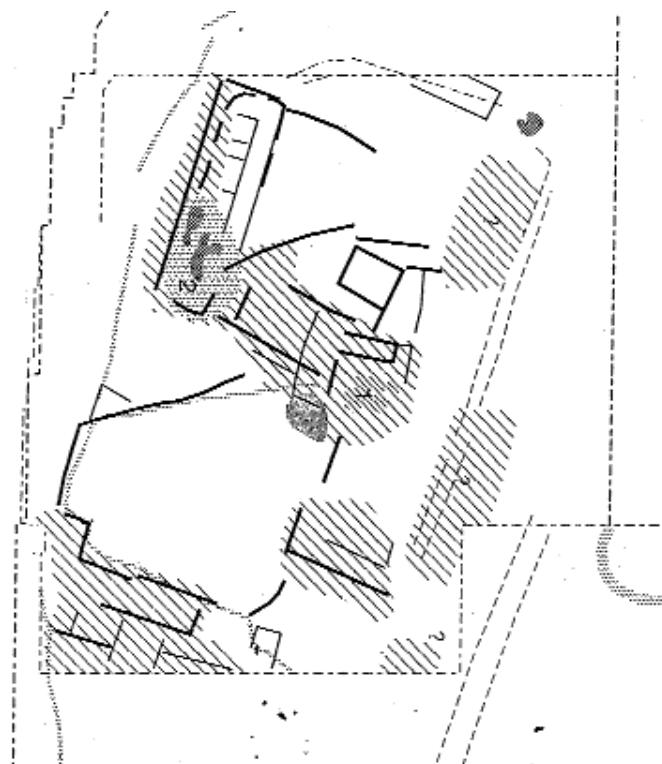
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The initial investigations with Philp revealed the remains of a Roman bath house with mosaic fragments and highly decorated painted plaster. It was thought that this was the only Roman building on the site one of the so-called 'isolated bath-houses' found only in Kent.

With the English Heritage survey a further possible 18 buried buildings were located, albeit electronically.

During August 2007 archaeological investigation by the KAFS began in earnest on the study site first investigated in 1997.

The geophysical survey by English Heritage (below) shows a plethora of features. The black lines were conjectural walls, some of which have now been shown to be Roman foundation walls. The Roman bath-house has a hypocaust system built of chalk blocks which were full of demolished parts of the building, including full colour



The geophysical survey (above) indicates a plethora of buried features, whilst the sketch plan (right) shows excavated features (black) and postulated features based on geophysical survey (grey). Two major buildings have been excavated, Building's A & B.

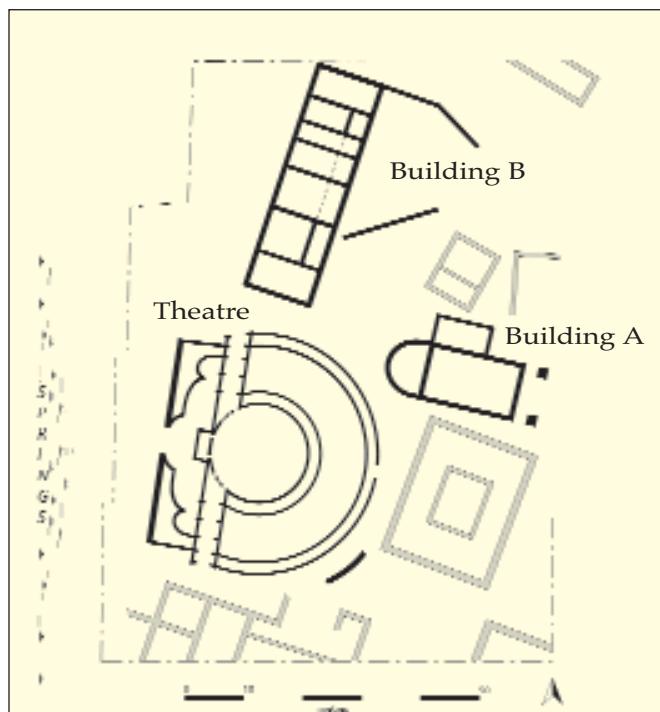
Baths are found in the vicinity of the theatre as at other sanctuary sites such as Sanxay. All the elements found at Blacklands with the added benefit of rolled curse tablets found in excavation suggest that the site is a rural religious sanctuary.

pictorial mosaic fragments and painted plaster.

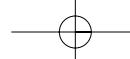
Mosaic fragments retrieved are exceptionally fine. Informed opinion is that they are some of the most important found in Kent (Cosh S. pers comm). The mosaic covered an area of about seven square metres with *tesserae* smaller than one centimetre. Other features exposed were another large Roman building with a hypocaust system (Building B), a cobbled surface leading to fresh water springs, and the large post-holes of a 6th century building built into the platform of Building A.

The depression was investigated and the infill can be dated to the early 5th century with the feature, a theatre in use up to the mid 4th century.

Investigation for 2009 is to investigate the probable Romano-Celtic temples overlooking the theatre.



Many of the theatres found in rural Gaul are of a special type, peculiar to the Celtic provinces of the empire. These so-called Romano-Celtic cockpit theatres have a large, nearly circular orchestra and a narrow stage erected much further back than the standard type, as postulated for Canterbury and seen at Orange. These theatres are associated with sacred springs (west of theatre) and Romano Celtic temples such as found at Sanxay (Vienne).



FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

Centuriation in the Swale District



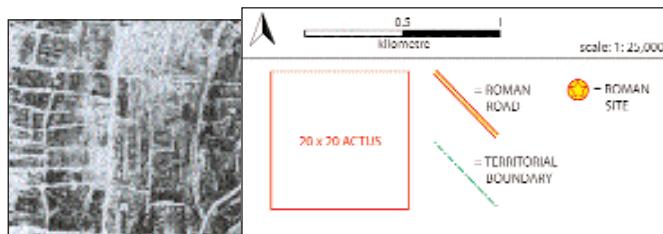
Oswald Ashton Dilke wrote in 1985 that: "The Romans from quite early times, mainly favoured a system of squares in which to draw up a survey".

In rural areas these were centuria ('centuries'), which were most commonly squares of 2400 x 2400 Roman feet (20 x 20 actus, or 706 x 706m.).

Part of the investigation methodology of the KAFS is not to treat sites in isolation, but to integrate the sites into the landscape. The results have been encouraging. The landscape around Hog Brook and Deerton Street can now, even after 2000 years of agricultural activity, be seen to have been divided up into 20 *actus* squares. There are 17 centuriation squares running in sequence along Watling Street in the vicinity of Hog Brook with another 12 clustered around them (above).

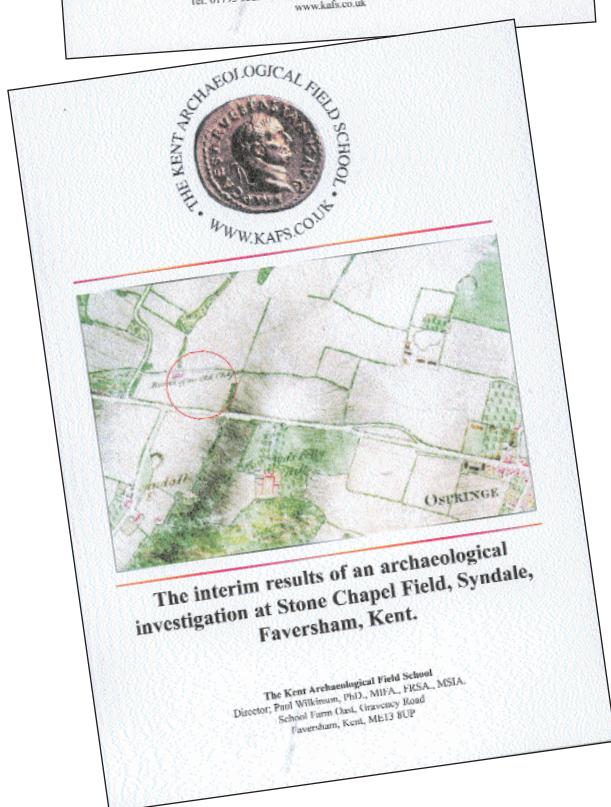
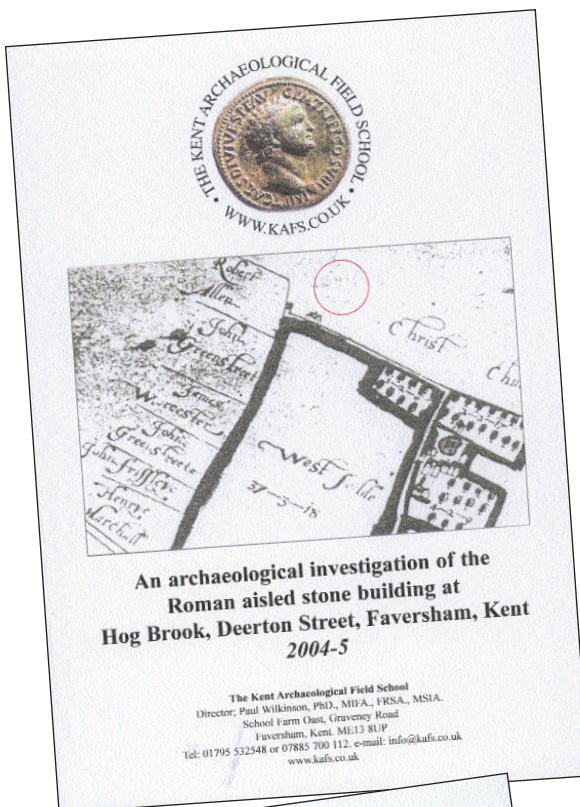
All of the 17 centuriation squares have been measured on the ground and are within a few metres of 706m., the length of a 20 *actus* square.

The results of this important large-scale investigation of Roman land measurement will be, by necessity, written up in a separate report.



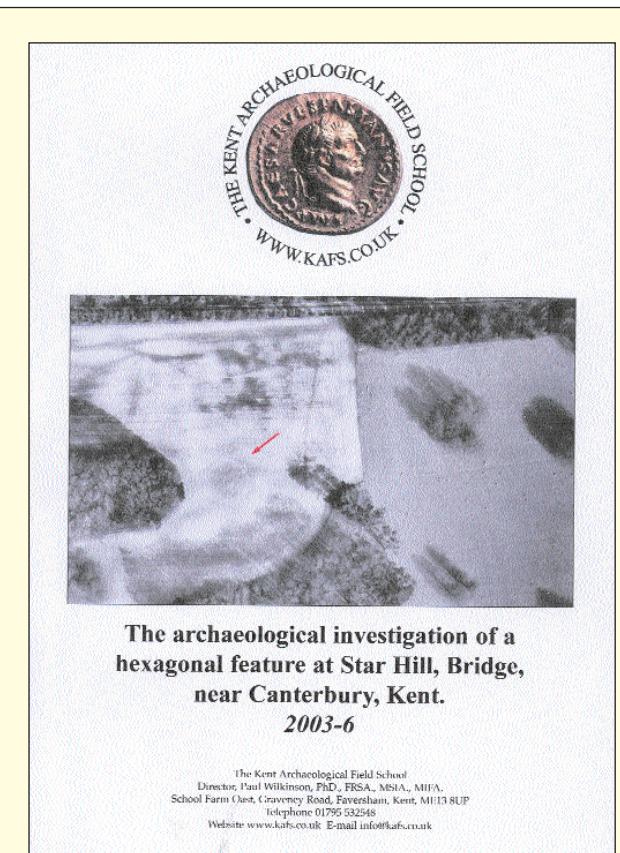
The best preserved example of Roman centuriation in Europe is at Zara in Croatia (left). At Deerton Street (above) extensive fieldwork was needed to unravel 2000 years of field boundary change due to intensive arable farming. The initial results are encouraging with at least 29 conjoined *actus* squares of 706x706m running parallel to Watling Street and probably using the Roman road as a survey baseline.

REPORTS



Three major interim reports have now been published and are available as full colour paper copies at £15 each. Alternatively they will be available free on line as PDFs

from Spring 2009. Reports in preparation include 'Investigations at the Archbishops' Palace at Teynham' and 'The Roman Bath-house at Bax Farm'.



To order, KAFS members may discount 10% on the published price shown.
All prices include post and packaging.
Please send a cheque for..... made payable to KAFS

Name.....

Delivery address.....

.....

.....

.....

email address.....

Pompeii..... £12

Archaeology..... £10

BAR Port of Faversham..... £25

Stone Chapel Field..... £15

Star Hill, Bridge..... £15

Hog Brook, Deerton Street..... £15

Send to: KAFS, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP.

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY REVIEW



SWAT Archaeology is now the second largest commercial archaeology unit in Kent with up to 30 archaeologists working on a variety of projects. The Director is Paulkinson, who also heads up

the KAFS. Archaeological teams are put together on a sub-contract basis to provide a complete archaeological service for clients.

These include some of the biggest names in the industry. Recent projects include the expansion of Manston Airport; Queenborough & Rushenden regeneration scheme for SEEDA; Hoo St Wereburgh housing development; Whitstable Horsebridge development; Abbey Street and Abbey Road, Faversham; Royal Marine Barracks at Deal; Altira Business Park, Beltinge, and many more.

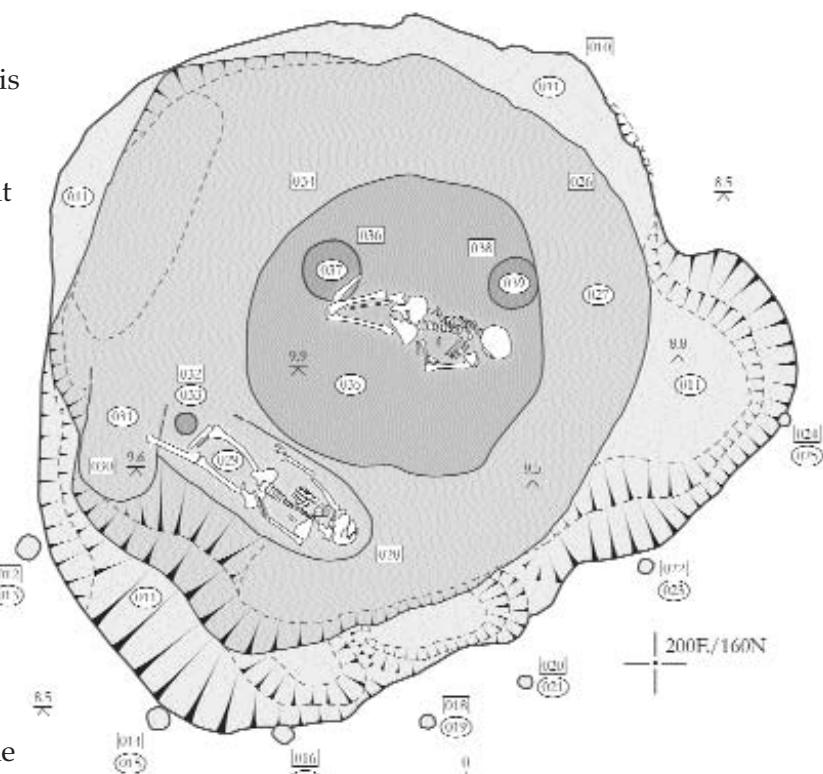
We are committed to growth and excellence of our work and turnover has doubled every year since 2006

The Field School benefits from this commercial input both in expertise and funding and specialists are able to teach weekend courses at the Field School using material they are processing for commercial projects.

One of the most important points is that there is no great divide at the Field School between so-called 'amateur' archaeologists and professionals. The work that amateur archaeologists undertake is important and meaningful and there is no place for derision and elitism in the ranks of professional archaeologists. Archaeology is a young profession still finding its way and all around us our past is being destroyed at an alarming rate.

The national and county archaeological agencies are under-manned and under-funded, and local societies for the most part have retreated from the field.

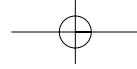
If we at SWAT and KAFS have learnt anything in the last ten years is that the work we need to do in the field is vast, but the time left is short.



*Plan of the so-called Iron Age
'bendy house' at Trinity
Square, Margate, Kent (above).*

*Archaeological excavation for
Simon Wright Homes at Hoo
St Wereburgh (below).*





Issue No. 10 Spring 2009

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY REVIEW



A Prehistoric landscape of 25ha excavated at Blacksole Farm, Beltinge, Kent. Multi-phased occupation dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Age through the Roman, Medieval and post-Medieval periods. To date, three roundhouses have been uncovered, two of which date to the Middle Bronze Age (left) and one from the Iron Age. The landscape was divided up for arable, pastoral and domestic purposes. Further rectangular enclosures, along with droveways, field boundaries and smaller internal divisions, reveal a network of herding features essential to the successful management and control of livestock.



Working in advance of developers archaeologists from SWAT are excavating Anglo-Saxon ditches and rubbish pits associated with a settlement focused on the church at Hoo St Wereburgh in Kent. Without this type of developer-funded archaeology sites like this will be lost with a consequent loss of information. A metal detectorist is scanning whilst the work is on-going and the fill of the ditches and rubbish pits will be bagged for post-excavation work. This will include looking for weeds, seeds, pollen, fish and bird bones. All of which holds the key to our understanding of diet, landscape, and farming activity.



Field-work, as here, midwinter on London Clay on the Isle of Sheppey is only for the well-trained and brave. Yet out of this inhospitable landscape will come lots of wonderful artefacts and information

which will write the history of this neglected offshore island in north Kent. The team on this project, some thirty strong come from all over Europe with key staff from Kent. All are self-employed and welded into strong teams within days.

KAFS COURSES 2009

The listing of archaeological courses for 2009.

*Unless otherwise stated two-day courses cost £70 and KAFS members enjoy a discount on full prices, except on field trips. To book, fill in the form on page 33.
For further details of all courses and membership see: www.kafs.co.uk*

March 7th & 8th, Field Walking and Map Analysis

Walking across the landscape and recording features seen on the ground is fundamental to most archaeology. This weekend course explains how to set out a field walking programme in the field and recognise and record artefacts found within the plough soil. These objects include flint tools, building material, pottery, glass and metal artefacts. One of the uses of field walking is to build up a database for large-scale regional archaeological surveys. We will consider the importance of regressive map analysis. The course will cover: strategies and procedures, standard and non-standard linewalking, grid walking, pottery distribution, identifying pottery and building ceramics, and practical experience of field walking an important site. Cost for the weekend is £40 for non-members and KAFS members free.



Easter, April 10th to April 17th, Excavation of Roman buildings at Blacklands, Faversham.

Our third season of field work and excavation (above) at Blacklands. In 2008 a theatre complex was revealed and for this year an investigation into two associated temple enclosures and further work on the orchestra or 'cockpit' of the theatre are planned. KAFS member's special fee £20 per day with non-members £30 per day.

April 18th & 19th, Bones and Burials

Osteo-archaeology is the study of human remains. The course will be led by Dr Patrick Mahony from the Dept of Anthropology, University of Kent. The course will cover the on-site recording of human remains and how they can reveal information about the person's age, sex and state of health. Excavated skeletons will be available for study and analysis in practical sessions. Cost for the weekend is £70 for non-members and KAFS member's special fee of £60.



May 2nd to May 4th, Introduction to Archaeology

A practical three-day bank holiday course on the newly discovered important Roman settlement at Blacklands near Faversham. We will survey the extent of the settlement, its access roads, field systems, and sample, through excavation and field-walking the extent and quality of survival of the Roman infrastructure. This course is ideal for newcomers to archaeology who wish to understand the archaeological process. We shall look at how archaeological sites are discovered and find out how different types of finds, such as pottery, bones and flints, reveal the lives of former peoples. The three-day Bank Holiday course costs £50 if membership is taken out at the time of booking the course, otherwise £70.

SUMMER EXCAVATIONS 2009

EASTER, ROMAN BUILDINGS AT BLACKLANDS, APRIL 10TH TO APRIL 17TH

ROMAN PALACE AT OPLONTIS, POMPEII, MAY 24TH TO JUNE 19TH

ROMAN BATHS AT BAX FARM, TEYNHAM, AUGUST 31ST TO SEPTEMBER 18TH



Easter, April 10th to April 17th, Excavation of Roman buildings at Blacklands, Faversham.

Our third season of field work and excavation at Blacklands. In 2008 a theatre complex was revealed and for this year an investigation into two

associated temple enclosures and further work on the orchestra or 'cockpit' of the theatre are planned. KAFS member's special fee £20 per day, non-members £30 per day.

May 24th to June 19th, Excavation of the Roman Palace at Oplontis, Pompeii

In 2008 KAFS were invited by the University of Texas to participate in an archaeological investigation of a magnificent Roman maritime palace probably owned by the family of the Emperor Nero at Oplontis which is close to Pompeii. The Palace, (above right) shown on a contemporary map, was buried below six metres of pumice and ash in AD79.



For 2009 we are able to take a larger team of experienced KAFS archaeologists to work on this World Heritage Site. KAFS member's special fee of £35 per day. Spaces are limited.

August 31st to September 18th, Excavation at the Roman Baths at Bax Farm, Teynham

Our first evaluation trench in 2007 exposed a cornucopia of archaeological features which included the concrete base of a large corn mill, a sunken road or 'hollow-way', Anglo-Saxon buildings and the remains of a massive stone-built Roman bath house. The masonry structure, c.10m across, enclosed a central octagonal *frigidarium* pool over 5m across.

Work in 2009 will focus on uncovering the full extant of this unique bath house and other buildings. KAFS member's special fee £20 per day, non-members £30 per day.



The wall paintings (left) at Oplontis are some of the finest from the Roman world whilst at Bax Farm (above) a unique octagonal bath house awaits further investigation.

KAFS COURSES 2009

May 16th & 17th, The Practical Study of Stone Tools

Terry Hardaker will give a



worldwide overview of the Palaeolithic period introducing the evolutionary framework and describing the central importance of stone tools. We trace the use of stone tools in Britain from newly

discovered sites in East Anglia, and study Britain's most important Palaeolithic site at Boxgrove followed by a practical session of tool recognition. Mesolithic and Neolithic artefacts will be studied as a prelude to an afternoon of fieldwalking when we will find examples of stone tools in the field. On Sunday there will be a practical exercise on field walking for lithic artefacts and flint knapping with John Lord, one of the country's leading practitioners, everyone will have the chance to make a flint tool with John's expert guidance. Cost for the weekend is £70 for non-members and KAFS member's special fee of £60.

TRAINING DIG

SEPTEMBER 7TH TO 11TH

Monday 7th to Friday 11th September, Archaeological Training Week at Bax Farm. Beginners are welcome on the Monday to Friday training course, with the option to continue for further days (same daily fee applies) excavating a unique octagonal Roman bath house at Bax Farm. Topics taught each day are: Monday: History of the Site & Why dig? Tuesday: Excavation Techniques; Wednesday: Site Survey; Thursday: Archaeological Recording; Friday: Small Finds Recording. KAFS new member's special fee £20 per day, non-members £30 per day.



May 24th to June 19th, Excavation of the Roman Palace at Oplontis, Pompeii

A small team from SWAT Archaeology and selected members of KAFS will be working with the University of Texas on a research excavation at the world famous palace of Nero's wife Poppaea. The palace was overwhelmed by pumice and ash during the eruption of Vesuvius in AD79 and buried under six metres of volcanic debris. The World Heritage site was excavated in the 1960's with stunning results exposing some of the finest Roman paintings found anywhere in the Roman world. This is a unique opportunity to join that small select band of archaeologists to have excavated at Oplontis/Pompeii. Cost is £175 per week, accommodation and meals not included, but advice given on accommodation available at Pompeii. For further details email Dr Paul Wilkinson at info@kafs.co.uk



July 11th & 12th, Landscape Archaeology

A course in two parts and spread over two weekends. The course is designed for all those who want to know more about the English landscape. The first weekend will be devoted to the six main categories of information: field walking, archaeology, aerial photography, maps, local history and place-names. Dr Paul Wilkinson will guide us through the countryside in the afternoon to show how to apply archaeological theory to interpret and understand the landscape of England. We can trace the history of the

FIELD TRIPS 2009

THE SAXON SHORE FORTS, KENT & SUSSEX, AUGUST 7TH TO AUGUST 9TH

DIOCLETIANS PALACE AT SPLIT, SEPT 19TH TO SEPT 21ST

ROMAN & CLASSICAL GREECE, OCTOBER 10TH TO 17TH (TBA)

ROMAN GERMANY, DECEMBER 5TH TO 11TH

Field Trips led by Paul Wilkinson and other experts have over the last eight years been a huge success with many hundreds of clients enjoying archaeological sites in Turkey, Sicily, Morocco, Tunisia, Spain, south of France, Rome, Pompeii and the Bay of Naples, Croatia, Hadrians Wall and Germany. The trips fall into two categories- our sister company 'Roman Holidays' in association with Thomson Holidays offer an all-inclusive holiday with excellent hotels, flights and all meals whilst KAFS offer a 'no frills' study tour where advice is given on flights and hotels with KAFS providing the same standard of care as Roman Holidays when we meet up on the ground. Both types of holidays offer excellent value and provide more for less cost than many of the better known archaeological tour companies. Our excellence can be judged by the number of clients returning to us year after year for yet more wonderful trips.

August 7th, 8th, 9th, The Saxon Shore Forts in Kent, and Sussex

The Saxon Shore forts present a number of archaeological and historical problems. This is largely because they appear as a unified system in the late Roman document, the *Notitia Dignitatum*, but archaeology and structural analysis have shown that they were not built at the same time. We will visit by coach Reculver, Richborough, Dover, Lympne, Pevensey, and Portchester with Tony Wilmott, a leading expert on Roman forts. Based at Canterbury the cost for the three days is £99 which only includes coach and all entrance fees.



is today the heart of the inner city of Split. Join archaeologist, Dr Paul Wilkinson, on a long weekend trip that brings the glory of this Imperial residence to life. This 'no frills' holiday costs £150, does not include flights or hotel but does include all

entrance fees, a local guide and ferry to the off-shore islands and coach or bus to the nearby Roman towns of Salona and Trogir. For further information on hotels and flights email Paul Wilkinson at info@kafs.co.uk

Roman & Classical Greece, October 10th to 17th (TBA)

The ultimate trip! We will visit Athens and Corinth, one of the largest and best preserved Roman towns in the world, Delphi, Olympia, Sparta, Mistra, Mycenae, Epidaurus, and lots lots more. All inclusive Roman Holiday price is £1775 per person.



Sept 19th, 20th, 21st, Diocletians Palace at Split,

The palace of the Emperor Diocletian at Split in Croatia

December 5th to 11th, Roman Germany

Roman Germanica

formed the hard-won eastern frontier of the Empire. This is a two-centre trip to the heart of Roman Germanica. Our tour, guided by Dr Paul Wilkinson, begins in Cologne, Germany's oldest city, with its innumerable cultural and historical treasures, world-famous museums and active art scene. Our second centre is Trier, one of the most important cities in the Roman Empire. The all-inclusive price with Roman Holidays is £998 per person.

KAFS COURSES

landscape by studying the development of field and parish boundaries. During the course of the next weekend (**July 18th & 19th**) we will trace, survey and section by excavation and record a new significant bank and ditch boundary (left) in the very best traditions of Time-Team.



This is a recently identified enigmatic field and parish boundary at Radfield that runs for 22km and divides Kent in half. Cost for each weekend is £70 for non-members and KAFS member's special fee of £60.

August 7th, 8th, 9th, The Saxon Shore Forts. The Roman forts in Kent, and Sussex

The Saxon Shore forts present a number of archaeological and historical problems. This is largely because they appear as a unified system in the late Roman document, the *Notitia Dignitatum*, but archaeology and structural analysis have shown that they were not built at the same time. We will visit by coach Reculver, Richborough, Dover, Lympne, Pevensey, and Portchester with Tony Wilmott of English Heritage, a leading expert on Roman Saxon Shore forts. Based at Canterbury the cost for the three days is £99 which includes coach and all entrance fees but does not include accommodation or meals.

August 31st to September 18th, Excavation at the Roman Baths at Bax Farm, Teynham, Kent

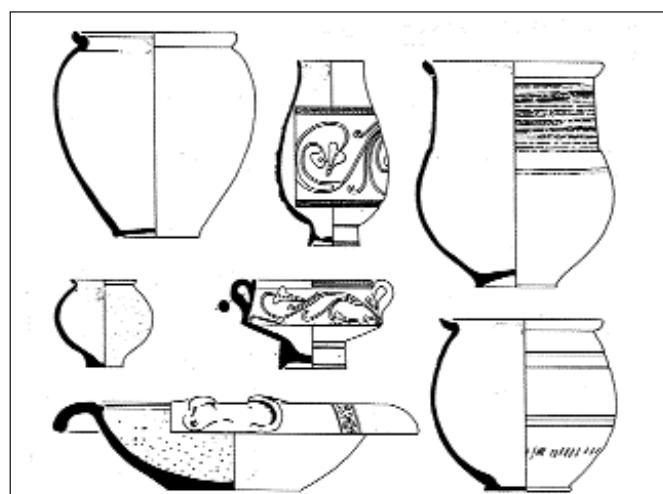
See page 29 for details.

September 12th & 13th, An introduction to Anglo-Saxon pottery

The course, led by Paul Blinkhorn, will introduce students to the practical problems of identifying Anglo-Saxon pottery. The types of pottery from each period will be explained and will be available for examination. Cost for the weekend is £70 for non-members and £60 for KAFS members.

September 19th, 20th, 21st. Field Trip to Diocletians Palace at Split, Croatia

The palace of the Emperor Diocletian at Split in Croatia is today the heart of the inner city of Split. Join archaeologist, Dr Paul Wilkinson, on a long weekend trip that brings the glory of this Imperial residence to life. This 'no frills' holiday costs £150, does not include flights or hotel but does include all entrance fees, a local guide and ferry to the offshore islands and coach or bus to the nearby Roman town of Salona and Trogir. For further information on hotels and flights email Paul Wilkinson at info@kafs.co.uk



October 3rd & 4th An introduction to Roman pottery

The course, led by Malcolm Lyne and members of the *Study Group for Roman Pottery*, will introduce students to the practical problems of identifying Roman pottery. The types of pottery from each period will be explained and will be available for examination. Cost for the weekend is £70 for non-members and £60 for KAFS members.

October 17th & 18th, Artefact Drawing

A beginner's and refresher course introducing participants to drawing archaeological artefacts. There will be practical sessions each day demonstrating how to illustrate pottery, bone, metal. Course led by Jane Russell, who was senior illustrator of the UCL Field Archaeology Unit.

December 5th to 11th, Roman Germany

See page 31 for details.

BOOKING FORM

March 7th & 8th,	
Field Walking and Map Analysis	KAFS members free. £40 for non-members
Easter, April 10th to April 17th,	KAFS members £20 per day
Excavation of Roman buildings at Blacklands	non-members £30 per day.
April 18th & 19th,	
Bones and Burials	KAFS members £60. £70 for non-members
May 2nd to May 4th,	
Introduction to Archaeology	KAFS members £50, non-members £70
May 16th & 17th,	
The Practical Study of Stone Tools	KAFS members £60. £70 for non-members
May 24th to June 19th,	
Excavation of the Roman Palace at Oplontis, Pompeii	£175 per week
July 11th & 12th,	
Landscape Archaeology	KAFS members £60. £70 for non-members
July 18th & 19th,	
Landscape Archaeology	KAFS new members £60. £70 for non-members
August 7th, 8th, 9th,	
The Saxon Shore Forts. The Roman forts in Kent, and Sussex	£99 per person
August 31st to September 18th,	KAFS members £20 per day, non-members £30 per day.
Excavation at the Roman Baths at Bax Farm	
Monday September 7th to Friday 11th , Archaeological Training Week at Bax Farm.	KAFS new members special fee £20 per day, non-members £30 per day.
September 12th & 13th,	
An introduction to Anglo-Saxon pottery	KAFS members £60. £70 for non-members
September 19th, 20th, 21st,	
Field Trip to Diocletians Palace at Split, Croatia	£150 per person
October 3rd & 4th,	
An introduction to Roman pottery	KAFS members £60. £70 for non-members
October 17th & 18th,	
Artefact Drawing	KAFS members £60. £70 for non-members
October 10th to 17th,	
Roman & Classical Greece (TBA)	£1775 per person
December 5th to 11th,	
Roman Germany	£998 per person

Name and Date of Courses (highlight above).....

Your Name.....

Address.....

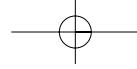
.....Postcode..... Tel No..... E-mail.....

I enclose a cheque (payable to KAFS)
for.....

Please return this form with full payment to:-

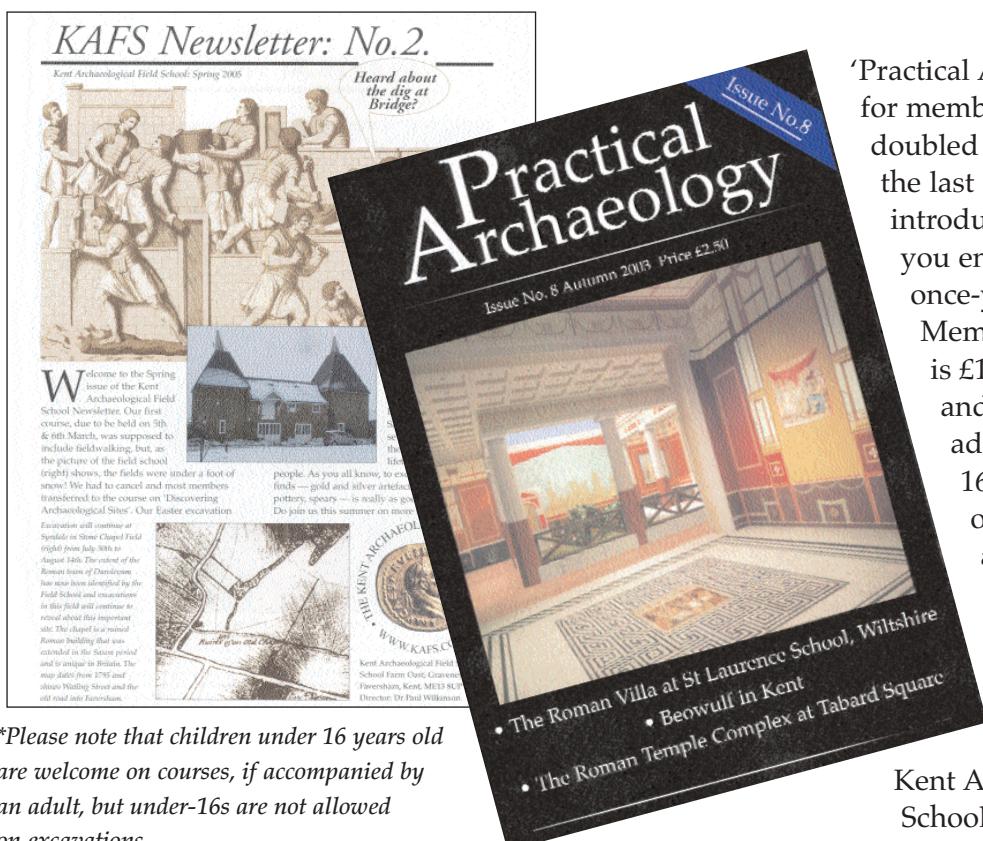
The Kent Archaeological Field School, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent ME13
8UP. Tel: 01795 532548 Website: www.kafs.co.uk E-mail: info@kafs.co.uk

Please note that courses are only bookable in advance and are non-refundable or transferable. Member's discount does not apply to special fees and field trips. Children under 16 years old are welcome on courses, but must be accompanied by an adult; under-16s are not allowed on excavations.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Practical Archaeology



*Please note that children under 16 years old are welcome on courses, if accompanied by an adult, but under-16s are not allowed on excavations.

'Practical Archaeology' is published for members of the KAFS. We have doubled the number of pages since the last copy and have just introduced colour. We hope that you enjoy the new look of the once-yearly magazine.

Membership for a single person is £15, for two adults it is £25, and family membership (two adults and two children under 16 years old*) is £30. For overseas membership please add £5. Membership entitles you to a discount on courses at the KAFS, except for special fees and field trips. Please return the completed form to:

Kent Archaeological Field School,
School Farm Oast, Graveney
Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP.

BANKERS ORDER (FOR MEMBERSHIP) (Please return to us and NOT to your bank)

To..... (Name of your bank)

.....
.....
..... (Your branch address)

Please pay to the Midland Bank, 281 Chiswick High Road, W4 (40-02-13) for the account of 'Practical Archaeology' (A/c No. 61241001) the sum of £..... on the date of receipt of this form and thereafter the same amount annually on the same date until further notice.

Your Name..... Type of membership.....

Your Address..... Postcode.....

Your Account number..... Your sort code..... Tel. no.....

Signature..... Date.....