

ROMAN STUDIES GROUP



The Group was set up to provide a forum in which members interested in the Romano-British period can discuss and exchange views and to encourage research, fieldwork and publication. It has now been established for more than a decade with about 100 members who enjoy a monthly lecture programme throughout the winter months as well as full-day conferences. A varied programme of visits to museums, villas and other Roman sites, and even an overseas visit to Trier has taken place. Membership is open to all members of Surrey Archaeological Society.

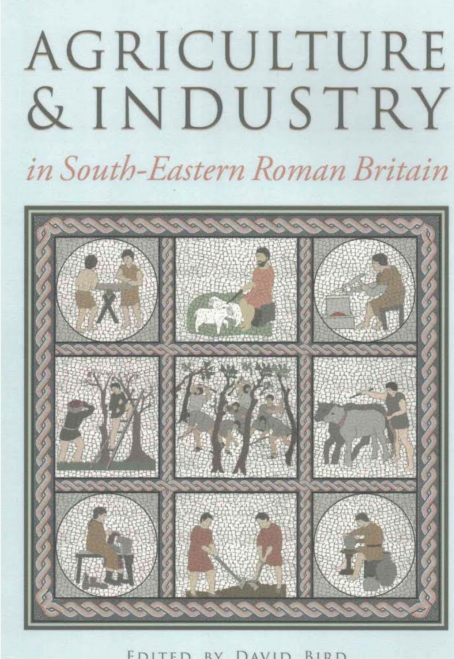
TALKS

One of the many benefits of membership is the series of monthly talks, October-March. Amongst the esteemed external speakers have been Mike Fulford (The completion of the Silchester Project), Harvey Sheldon (Highgate Wood pottery production site), Hella Eckhardt (the Roman Diaspora Project, and New evidence for Roman literacy), Tony King (Roman Wessex), Dougie Killock (Trinity Street, Southwark cemetery), Sam Moorhead (Roman coins), Jon Cotton (Roman Isle of Thanet), Martyn Allen (Roman Rural Settlement Project); David Staveley (Finding Roman roads), Alexis Haslam (Running a commercial archaeological site)

As well as inviting outside speakers we provide regular feed-back talks on the Group's fieldwork projects, and outside projects in which members have participated.

Roman Archaeological Database

A database was set up by Alan Hall and Phil Stanley to record all published Roman period archaeology in the county. It contains a mapping tool and sites can be searched for by type e.g. finds, crop marks, geophysical evidence, excavation, or location-based e.g. OS grid or radius from site. This is a powerful research tool and it is hoped to make it more widely available.



Three regional conferences have been organised by RSG, thanks in the main to Edward Walker. The subjects were: *Agriculture and Food in Roman Britain, Industry in southern Roman Britain, and How Roman was Roman Britain*. These events were well received and Oxbow has recently published *Agriculture and Industry in South-Eastern Roman Britain*, edited by David Bird and containing papers by speakers at both the Agriculture and Industry conferences.



A joint excavation took place with the Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society on the Dockfield Roman tile kiln (photo taken with SyAS' overhead camera)

CONFERENCES

CO-OPERATION WITH, AND SUPPORT OF, OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUPS



RSG members taking part in English Heritage magnetometry training at Abinger

Site Name	Site number	Source	NGR	Parish	Site type	Dating
	4379	Portable Ar	TQ 05100 70905	Stanes	Find Site	Romano I
	4454	Portable Ar	TQ 16300 55300	Leatherhead	Find Site	Romano I
Abinger Hammer, east of Felday Lane	2200	Other infor	TQ 0990 4690	Abinger	Find site	C1-4
Abinger Hammer, Leasers barn	2412	Portable Ar	TQ 1110 4630	Shere	Find site	C4
Abinger, Cocks Farm	62NR		TQ 1064 4746	Abinger	Villa - other	C1-4
Abinger, Cocks Farm	1753	Portable ar	TQ 1063 4741	Abinger	Find site	C1
Abinger, Cocks Farm	2276	Other infor	TQ 1070 4750	Abinger	Field system	C1-2
Abinger, Everards	389NR		TQ 1062 4740	Abinger	Find site	C1-4
Abinger, Hackhurst Lane	73NR		TQ 0960 4780	Abinger	Find site	C2
Abinger, Oakwood Churchyard	1169NR		TQ 1273 3797	Abinger	Find site	C1-4
Abinger, St James Church	755NR		TQ 1140 4590	Abinger	Find site	C4
Abinger, west of Abinger Lane	2189	Other infor	TQ 1103 4670	Abinger	Cremation(s)	C1-2
Addington High School	8930S	card	TQ 3950 6120	Addington	Road	C1-4
Addington Palace	14390S	card	TQ 3650 6380	Addington	Find site	LIA
Addlestone, Brooklands Race Track	4310S	card	TQ 0600 6100	Byfleet	Settlement	C1-4
Addlestone, Former Marconi Site	1244NR		TQ 0557 6511	Chertsey	Ditch(es); bound	BA-EIA

A section of the Roman Archaeology database site list

RESEARCH

Research

Over the life of the group several working parties have been set up to look at different aspects of Roman activity in Surrey, including roads, roadside and rural settlements, and villas. Work from these groups has identified, and fed into fieldwork projects. These projects in turn have drawn in volunteers and members to RSG.

Potential research projects include a Cross Wealden Project with the Horsham group and Sussex Archaeological Society as potential partners. The need for a cross-county discussion on the problem of identifying greyware pottery is also being considered.



RSG supported the Horsham District Archaeology group, on its work at Alfoldean, with a magnetometry survey in the area outside the manso.



Using the total station in Church Meadow, Ewell



Hulled barley from Church Meadow, Ewell

Members of RSG have been instrumental in raising the profile of environmental archaeology within the Society. An environmental processing course was held during the Church Meadow excavations, and samples have been taken and processed from Church Meadow, Ashtead and Abinger sites with promising results. A Society flotation tank is now available at the Abinger Research Centre.

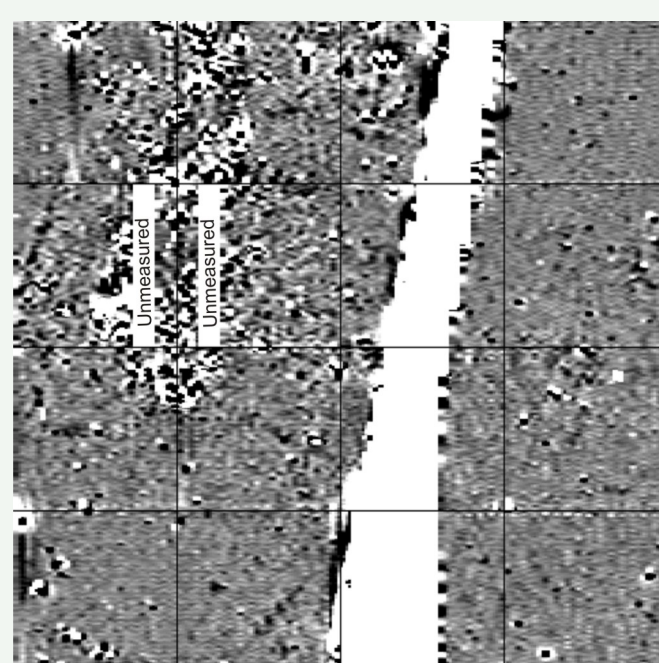
Roman road research - in the early days of RSG much research was done on Roman roads in Surrey, led by Alan Hall, Frank Pemberton and David Calow. This work has led to excavation and both positive and negative evidence for routes across the county.

Training and skills

Members have had the opportunity to take part in training in the following archaeological skills: magnetometry, resistivity and total station surveying, use of digital drawing programs, overhead photography, digital finds photography and environmental processing. Training has either been provided by other members of RSG or SyAS, or outside agencies such as English Heritage. Trained members have then passed on the skills they have learnt to others in the group, and these skills have been used to advance the research and fieldwork projects undertaken by RSG.

Magnetometry and Resistivity

Members have undertaken geophysical surveys as part of several fieldwork projects. Magnetometry at **Flexford** uncovered the extent of Romano-British activity and allowed for targeted excavation within a large site. Current fieldwork on the hill adjacent to the Roman villa at **Abinger** is only possible due to a magnetometry survey aimed at finding evidence for the villa estate, an area not historically considered during villa excavations. Smaller area resistivity surveys were carried out at both sites, both to compare to magnetometry results and to pick up features better recorded by this method. Magnetometry was employed on the triangular earthwork on **Ashtead Common** in advance of excavation and was used to support the City of London Corporation management plans. A magnetometry survey was also carried out on behalf of English Heritage at **Titsey Roman villa**; it located evidence for enclosures around the villa that was excavated in mid-19th century. Exposed walling was also recorded and recommendations made for conservation work on the site.



Magnetometry of the Titsey villa and environs showing possible enclosures

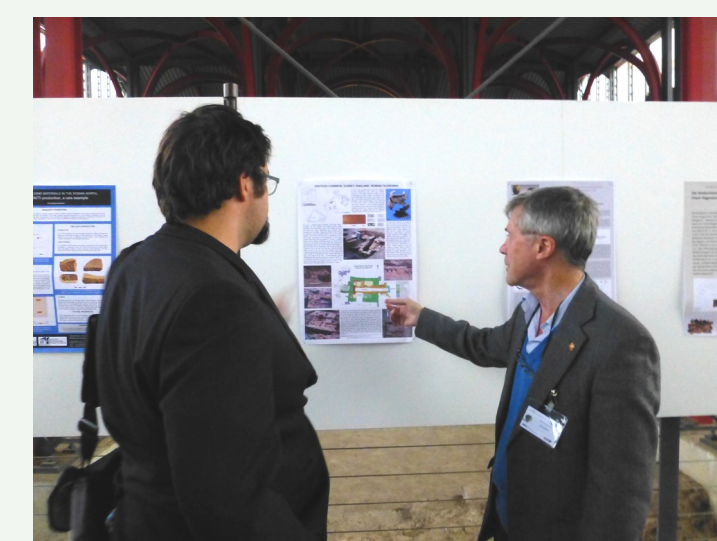


Field walking

Field walking is used to assess archaeological activity and has been carried out at Abinger, Ewell and Chiddingfold



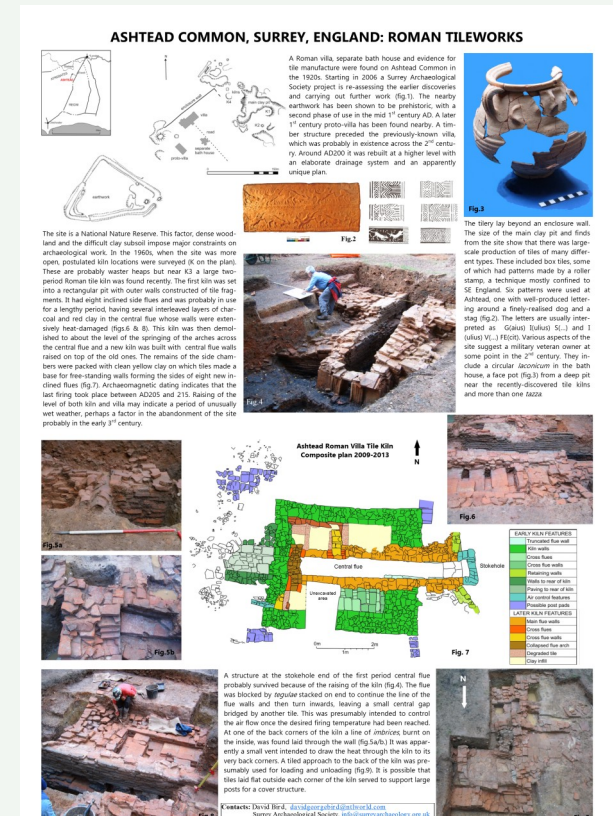
A map showing the Ewell Stane Street alignment, with sites at Stane Way, St. James Avenue and Bridge Road having been excavated by RSG



David Bird, RSG chairman sharing a poster at Ashtead Roman villa and tileworks at a continental conference

Dissemination of Information

Members in charge of fieldwork projects are also responsible for ensuring that the information is disseminated. Interim reports are published in the *Bulletin* as soon after the excavation as possible, and final reports are submitted to the publications committee of SyAS for inclusion in the *Surrey Archaeological Collections*. Articles have also been published in national archaeological journals. Presentations are given to RSG members, the wider SyAS audience and local archaeological societies. Members have given talks at conference in Kent and Sussex, sharing information and ideas with like-minded colleagues.



DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION



The site of Titsey Roman villa with standing walls evident in an area trampled by cattle



Interim reports of fieldwork are published in the Society's Bulletins

TRAINING