

Some further sources

Bird, D. (2004) *Roman Surrey*

Brad, D. (2017) *Agriculture and Industry in South-Eastern Roman Britain*

Hunt, R. (2002) *Hidden Depths: an archaeological exploration of Surrey's Past*

Oakley, K.P. et al. (1939) *A Survey of the Prehistory of the Farnham District*

Historic England publications (many intro guides as online PDFs) - historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/

AD 410 - Sacking of Rome by Visigoths and Britain told

AD 402 - End of imports of official coinage

AD 367 - *Barbarica conspiratio* attempt to overthrow empire

AD 320-360 - Deposition of ritually 'killed' coins and

AD 300-350 - Surrey villas mostly abandoned

AD 314 - Christianity made legal in the Roman Empire

Allectus comes to an end by imperial forces

AD 296 - Short-lived British-based empire of Carausius and

AD 200-380 - Major pottery production centre at Alice Holt

AD 211 - Britain divided into Britannia Superior in the south and Inferior in the north

AD 125 - Construction of Hadrian's Wall

AD 100 - Most of the Roman roads in Britain complete

AD 90-150 - Main period of villa building in Surrey

AD 75 - Building of the palace at Fishbourne commences

AD 70 - Roadside settlements begin to emerge as a result of new trading patterns

AD 65-70 - Earliest evidence for buildings at Staines, which followed Southwark as the first towns in Surrey

AD 61 - Revolt of Boudica, British queen of the Iceni and date of construction for Stane Street

AD 50 - Founding of London, which becomes the capital, Britain invaded by the Emperor Claudius

AD 1 - South-east Britain was controlled by powerful leaders who had close contact with the Roman Empire as part of his Gaulish campaign

4 BC - Birth of Christ

55-54 BC - Julius Caesar made two expeditions to Britain

Timeline

The Roman period

Want to learn about



Fishbourne Roman Palace, Sussex, c. AD 75-270

the Roman period?

Studying the Romans and learning how Britain came to be part of the Empire is often one of the most exciting and popular topics in the Key Stage 2 primary curriculum. Yet, it's not all about the conquering armies and leisurely villa life – exciting though they are – with many other important aspects of daily life in Roman Britain worth looking at: roads, pottery production, religion, language, number systems, towns, country life (just to name a few). The topic is a great one for exploring major historical concepts such as 'change' and 'continuation' – remember, the Iron Age to Roman transition wasn't overnight – and with a wealth of visual and artefactual material, lessons can easily tie into Art, Drama and English work.

Suggested sources (a good internet search will result in more!)

Historic England's educational resources - historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education (includes teaching activities and classroom resources, such as an immersive interactive timeline)

British Museum's learning resources - www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools_and_teachers/resources.aspx

University of Reading/Runnymede Trust's 'Romans Revealed' teaching resource - www.romansrevealed.com

Schools Prehistory and Archaeology - www.schoolsprehistory.co.uk

Young Archaeologists' Club - www.yac-uk.org

Local loans boxes are also available from the Museum, Surrey Archaeological Society and Surrey County Archaeological Unit



Design a tile mosaic (2D or 3D)!

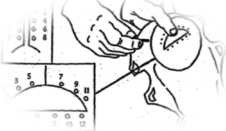


Construct a Roman road...with food!

Activity ideas:

Create a version of Roman ink and practice writing Latin

Cook your own Roman feast!



Sew a pair of sandals from felt (think about our evidence for what they looked like)

Find out more about Farnham's unique past



The Museum of Farnham is an accredited and award-winning museum situated within the Georgian Grade I-listed Willmer House. Within its local studies library and stores it holds the largest collection of archives from the area, and it runs temporary exhibitions and events throughout the year, including the regular lecture series organised by the Museum Society.

www.farnhammaltings.com/museum



Much of what we know about Farnham's early past comes from the work of local archaeologists in the Surrey Archaeological Society, who run fieldwork and heritage outreach projects in the Farnham area, including the community dig Finding Farnham.

www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk

Other links

Farnham & District Museum Society - www.farnhammuseumsociety.org.uk

The Farnham Society - farnhamsociety.org.uk

Surrey History Centre - www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre

Surrey Heritage (Exploring Surrey's Past) - www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk

Wrecchesham History project - wreccheshamhistory.wordpress.com

Hale History project - www.halehistoryproject.co.uk

Rural Life Centre - rural-life.org.uk

Butser Ancient Farm - www.butserancientfarm.co.uk

Guildford Museum - guildford.gov.uk/museum

Curtis & Aldershot Military Museum - www.hampshireculture.org.uk

For more information, images and pdfs of leaflets visit www.farnham.gov.uk/hiddenheritage



farnhamofficial

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Artwork by Victor Ambrus



Although contact with Rome had begun almost a century previously under the campaigns of Julius Caesar, it was the invasion under the Emperor Claudius in AD 43 that brought Britain under Roman control. Despite this period often being equated with sophisticated villas, bustling towns and fortified frontiers, much of the countryside was likely unchanged from that in the preceding Iron Age.

Surrey is crossed by a number of roads, of which Stane Street – which connects London to Chichester – is the most prominent, with others running either through the Weald down to the south coast or east-west connecting London with towns such as Silchester and Winchester. Although settlements – including Flexford – were situated along these routes, Roman Surrey lacked the large and formal planned towns and military frontiers seen elsewhere on the island, with many towns built near existing tribal centres.

Most villas – of which there were many in Surrey – were centres of farming estates, though that at Ashted was tied to a large tile production site. Pottery was another key industry in the area, with a major production centre at Alice Holt Forest which manufactured coarse, grey pottery to be supplied to London and beyond. Temples were also important features in the rural landscape – with a recently discovered temple site at Southwark as well – and many of the rituals and beliefs developed from religious systems which were in existence before the introduction of the Roman gods.

AD 43 - 410

Roman Farnham



Hidden Heritage

A local archaeological & heritage guide to Farnham's buried past



Farnham & District
Museum Society



Surrey
Archaeological
Society



FARNHAM
INSTITUTE
CHARITY

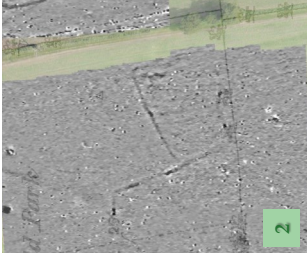
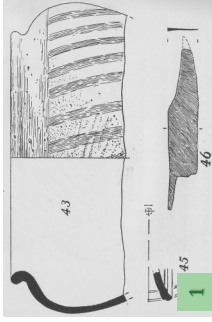
Roman Farnham

AD 43 - 410



Iron Age to Roman transition

Without good dating evidence such as coins or radiocarbon dates, many of the rural sites in the area were not easily distinguishable in the century from c. 50 BC to the Roman invasion. Sites such as Bourne Mill, Stoneyfield and Snailsynch showed continuous occupation through their finds, and even ones only indicated through their form – commonly showing up as a series of ditches and enclosures in cropmarks or geophysical survey – are often difficult to distinguish without excavation.

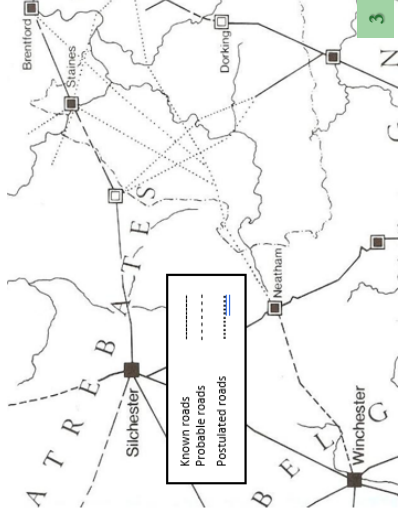


- 1 Belgic pottery and (probable Roman) iron knife from Bourne Mill Spring site (© Surrey Archaeological Society, A W G Lowther)
- 2 Magnetometry geophysical survey of early Roman (possibly Late Iron Age) site at Old Park, first seen in aerial photos which showed cropmarks of ditches and enclosures (Image from A Sassini)

Towns, tracks and roads

No definite trace of a Roman road has yet to be found in or around Farnham, though it is assumed that the road connecting Winchester to London would have passed through the nearby town of Neatham (Alton) and continued along the Hog's Back, passing through (possibly to the north of) town. Sections of this east-west road have recently been uncovered at the roadside settlement of Flexford, where it was shown to have been used from the 2nd to 5th century.

Neatham was a small settlement that expanded from a defended enclosure, first discovered in 1969 when the by-pass was built. Digs in the 70s revealed several structures including a market and bath-house which were occupied up until the 4th century.



- 3 Roman roads (both known and conjectured) in west Surrey (© Surrey Archaeological Society, D Bird)



- 4 Trench across the 12m wide (including ditches either side) east-west Roman road at Flexford (© D Calow)

Metal Detecting

If undertaken responsibly, detecting can make important contributions to our archaeological knowledge.

Detectorists are reminded that it is illegal to trespass – remember all land has an owner! – and to record finds with their local Finds Liaison Officer and the Portable Antiquities Scheme. For more on the



Code of Practice, see www.finds.org.uk.

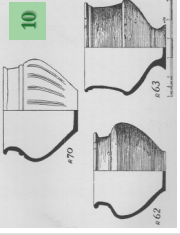
Funding raised by
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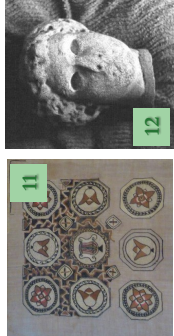
Cemeteries and villas

Vessels containing cremation burials are known from a small number of early Roman local sites. Other stray finds include coins and brooches, as well as the marble head from Crondall, possibly from an early villa.



- 9 Alton Romano-British burial dug in 1980 (Photo by D Graham)
- 10 Pottery from Stoneyfield and Green Lane from 1st century burial sites (© Surrey Archaeological Society)

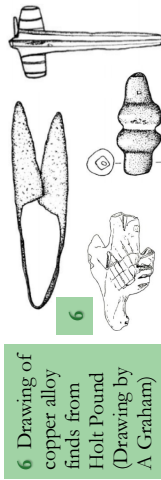
- 11 Sampler in All Saints Church, Crondall of mosaic from Barley Pound villa, which was excavated in 1817



- 12 Romano-British marble head from Crondall church, possibly from Barley Pound (Photo by D Graham)

Early ritual sites at Frensham and Holt Pound

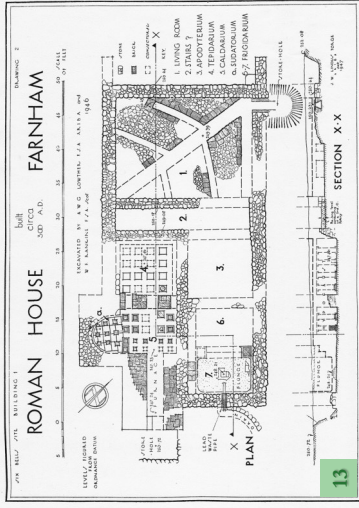
Two small ritual sites dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries have been unearthed in the area as a result of metal detecting, the first of which was discovered on the edge of Frensham Common in the late 1970s, though only came to light after the detectorist's death when a collection of coins and site map were uncovered in his attic. Excavations revealed ritual deposits of further coins, spearheads, rings and bronze sheeting – likely a head-dress – all surrounding pits containing a number of miniature pots. In the 1980s another probable religious site was discovered at Holt Pound – after a footballer fell on a pair of Roman shears sticking out from the ground – with further investigations resulting in a number of unusual copper alloy finds, including an eagle, pieces of torc, shears and brooches.



- 6 Drawing of copper alloy finds from Holt Pound (Drawing by A Graham)

- 7 Frensham silver unit (top right) and coins of Trajan (top) and Claudius (bottom) (Photos by D Graham), and bronze bindings for sceptre (Drawing by J Richards)

- 8 Miniature pots from Frensham, some deposited upside down in pits, with geochemical analysis of the content suggesting traces of cannabis and oil (Photos by D Graham)



- 13 Excavation of bath building (top) and house (bottom) at Six Bells (Photo and drawing by A W G Lowther)

Six Bells villa

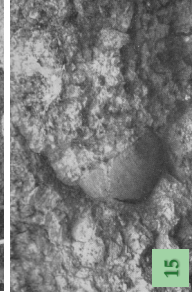
The Roman site which is perhaps best known in Farnham is that at Roman Way housing estate – or Six Bells – where in 1946-7 excavations of a villa were undertaken by A W G Lowther. The complex consisted of a house, bath complex, aqueduct and possible pottery works, with most of the uncovered evidence dating the site from the early 3rd to the end of the 4th century.

- 14 Selection of finds from Six Bells, including oyster shells, tile, samian ware (© Surrey Archaeological Society), and (bottom right/centre) painted plaster (Photos by D Graham)



Kiln sites and Alice Holt pottery production

Most of the Roman sites in Farnham discovered in the early 20th century were associated with pottery kilns, a local industry which was clearly substantial at this time. In particular, the Alice Holt kilns – which manufactured coarse, grey kitchen ware from the 1st to 5th centuries – dominated the London and southeast markets, though other local kiln groups include Farnham and Tilford. The first Alice Holt kiln to be excavated was in 1945 by Major A G Wade at Goose Green Inclosure, who took ten years to find a kiln and prove that waste was not simply being dumped in the forest. A Roman tile kiln was also recently dug at Dockenfield, producing roof tiles (tegulae) as found at Six Bells.



- 15 Stoneyfield pit kiln uncovered in gravel digging (top) and sherds in situ amongst burnt clay lining (bottom) (A W G Lowther)



- 16 Kiln excavation from Country Market, Sleaford (Photo by D Graham)



- 17 Early Alice Holt jar from Snailsynch kiln possibly used to block flue (© Surrey Archaeological Society)

- 18 Alice Holt pedestal jar found in the Binsted area (context unknown) (Photo by D Graham)

- 19 Dockenfield tile kiln under excavation (Photo by D Graham)

