A conjectural reconstruction of a building at the Roman roadside settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent. This particular building was used as a smithy, with a row of iron-smelting furnaces outside its south-west end.

Reconstruction by Peter Lorimer and by courtesy of Paul Booth, Oxford Archaeology.
Roadside Settlements in Roman Britain and Beyond

Introduction

The published literature on Roman Britain, when it comes to consideration of types of sites, seems dominated by books and articles on Roman forts, villas and towns. This is not surprising since excavation has, to an extent, concentrated on these categories. Forts, towns and villas are the sorts of locations that we most associate with the Roman provincial authorities and those people of indigenous ancestry who aspired (or were coerced) to adopt new colonial lifestyles. Correspondingly books on rural roadside settlements are scarce. This is a great pity since roadside settlements have the potential for fascinating insights into local adaptations to Roman colonial occupation. How did roadside settlements, or vici, develop? Did they need some authorisation for their existence? Who lived in them? What was their range of functions? Why were some defended? Were roadside settlements the product of colonial persuasion, or were they a locally-motivated response to a variety of new opportunities and possibilities? If a combination of these motives, can we tease out some of the most influential strands in the mix?

The case of the recently excavated (and admirably published) Roman Roadside Settlement (RRS) at Westhawk Farm, Kent illustrates some of the major quandaries when trying to interpret the material evidence from such sites. The RRS at Westhawk formed around a Roman road junction - that made by the roads from Canterbury to the Weald and the road to Lympne, soon after the mid-1st century AD. A rich cremation burial of pre-Conquest date suggests that the area was already the focus of a high-status settlement, and it may be that some people from this particular nearby settlement site moved (voluntarily or not) to the new Roman road junction. Within a generation of the relocation, a polygonal shrine structure, within a rectangular enclosure, was erected - the only ‘public’ building in the RRS. In character the people of Westhawk Farm seemed to have been involved in iron-working and agriculture, and to a lesser extent trade. Multiple rectilinear plots suggest some degree of organised settlement layout, but the continuance of circular buildings into the 3rd century suggests a strong element of indigenous influence at Westhawk. Some of the obvious questions provoked by the excavations concern the degree of provincial encouragement, supervision and monitoring at sites like Westhawk, and, in contrast, the survival of pre-Conquest practices and values.

The picture from Westhawk contrasts dramatically with the seemingly defended phase of sites at locations such as Alfoldean on Stane Street, and indeed, Bridge Farm, north of Lewes. Why did some RRS receive ‘defences’, and others not? Did some RRS gradually achieve more importance to provincial authorities so that they gained official status, and were recognised and protected? What did this mean for the range of activities that took place at the defended sites, and indeed for the composition of the personnel who lived in or frequented them? Did the character of these sites change substantively, or not at all?

This conference seeks answers to some of these questions, and is, in part, prompted by the current excavations into the important roadside settlement at Bridge Farm, north of Lewes. We want to set Bridge Farm into some sort of regional context, but first we have to understand the nature of that context. To that end a prestigious set of speakers, from Britain and the near Continent, has been selected to explore different aspects of these sites and to debate whether there are many or any commonalities between them. Indeed we also need to ponder whether ‘roadside settlement’ is a useful bit of archaeological categorising, or whether the term itself is just a catch-all description for sites of fundamentally different characteristics.

Dr John Manley and Dr David Rudling
Roadside Settlements in Roman Britain and Beyond

Programme

10.00am Welcome
Dr John Manley, Trustee of Sussex Archaeological Society and joint Conference Chair

10.10am From Kent to the Upper Thames Valley - some characteristics of roadside settlements in Roman Britain
Paul Booth, Oxford Archaeology

10.45am Old Fields, new markets: the role and development of nucleated settlement in Roman Britain
Dr Martyn Allen, University of Reading

11.20am Questions followed by tea/coffee

11.45am Augustus' legacy: the vicus of Coriovallum and neighbouring vici between the Meuse and the Rhine
Dr Karen Jeneson, Roman Baths Museum, Heerlen, Netherlands

12.20pm Roman roadside settlements in Eastern England: patterns and variations
Dr Steve Willis, University of Kent

12.55pm Questions followed by lunch

2.00pm Welcome back
David Rudling, Trustee of Sussex Archaeological Society and joint Conference Chair

2.05pm Roadside settlements and their defences north of the Thames
Ernest Black, independent researcher

2.40pm The nature of Roman roadside settlements in Surrey and Sussex
Dr David Bird, Surrey Archaeological Society and Roman Research Trust

3.15pm Questions followed by tea/coffee

3.40pm Flexford, Surrey - a rural periodic market?
David Calow, Surrey Archaeological Society

4.15pm Road and riverside settlement at Bridge Farm, Sussex: from defenceless to defended?
Rob Wallace and David Millum, Culver Archaeological Project

4.50pm Questions and end

2
From Kent to the Upper Thames Valley - some characteristics of roadside settlements in Roman Britain
Paul Booth

The label roadside settlement can be used of a wide variety of sites in Roman Britain, which makes it the same time a slippery and a useful term. Taken at its straightforwardly descriptive value, however, it enables us to avoid some of the rather arid discussions of settlement categorisation that have periodically bedevilled Romano-British studies. Evidence from examples from the extremities of the south-east region, Westhawk Farm at Ashford in Kent and Gill Mill, near Witney in Oxfordshire, both of which have seen extensive excavation, will be used to examine some of the diversity within this broad settlement class and suggest some of its most important common characteristics.

Selected reading – both general and specific
Booth, P, Dodd, A, Robinson, M and Smith, A, 2007 The Thames through time; the archaeology of the gravel terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames. The early historical period: AD 1-1000, Oxford Archaeology Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph 27, Oxford
Booth, P, Bingham, A and Lawrence, S, 2008 The Roman Roadside settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent: excavations 1998-9, Oxford Archaeology Monograph 2, Oxford
Burnham, B C and Wacher, J S, 1990 The ‘small towns’ of Roman Britain, London
Millett, M, 2007 Roman Kent, in J H Williams (ed.), The archaeology of Kent to AD 800, Kent History Project 8, Kent County Council, Woodbridge, 135-184

Biographical note
Paul Booth is a Senior Project Manager at Oxford Archaeology, where he has worked for more than 25 years. He has undertaken a wide variety of major fieldwork and post-excavation projects, particularly in the West Midlands, the Oxford region and Kent, and is now mainly involved in post-excavation management, reporting and editing. He is also an established Roman pottery specialist. He has a wide range of research interests in the Roman period in Britain and has published widely.
Old fields, new markets: the role and development of nucleated settlement in Roman Britain
Dr Martyn Allen

Traditionally, the study of Roman Britain has focussed on the most visible parts of its archaeology: the roads, the towns, the villas, and the forts. These elements of the province were associated with its governance and its infrastructure, and, naturally, led to curiosity-driven research into these areas. In 1990, the inclusion of archaeology in the planning system in England saw a massive expansion of commercial work. This caused a paradigm shift, not only in the way in which archaeological sites were chosen for excavation, but also in the evidence base which resulted from those investigations. Our gaze has been drawn away from the ‘Roman’ parts of Britain, into the countryside, to the places where the majority of people lived, built homes, raised children, husbanded livestock, grew crops, traded goods, worshipped their gods, and buried their dead. The research focus has now diverted to a degree, away from towns and villas towards the province-wide mosaic of farms and field systems which filled the landscape. However, there were other forms of settlement which, metaphorically speaking, sat in between the towns and the farms. Roadside settlements were a true phenomenon of the Roman period, and yet we know very little about their development and decline, how they functioned, and the extent to which their populations interacted with the wider population.

Artist’s impression of the Roman roadside settlement at Brentford, Greater London (Cowie et al. 2013)

This paper looks at how our understanding of these settlements has expanded since 1990, drawing upon the new wealth of information gained from developer-funded excavations, alongside traditional research-based projects. It aims to look at common characteristics shared by these settlements, but also the wide degree of variation between them, and it will highlight some of the problems we still face when dealing with nucleated settlements in Roman Britain and some areas to focus on in the future.
Biographical note
For the past four years, Martyn has been a Research Fellow at the University of Reading and he is currently working on a Leverhulme-funded research project, entitled the Rural Settlement of Roman Britain. Prior to this, he worked for Historic England (then English Heritage) as a Research Assistant on the Review of the Zooarchaeology of Roman Southern England. Martyn has also worked freelance for a number of years, reporting on zooarchaeological assemblages excavated from a range of archaeological sites across the country. He received his Doctorate from the University of Nottingham in 2011 for his research on the zooarchaeology of Fishbourne Roman Palace, West Sussex. This project was part-funded by the Sussex Archaeological Society, and he is forever gladly in their debt!

Augustus’ legacy: the vicus of Coriovallum and neighbouring vici between the Meuse and the Rhine
Dr Karen Jeneson, Roman Baths Museum Heerlen, The Netherlands

One of the most defining acts carried out by Augustus in the new Roman territory acquired by Julius Caesar was the construction of new roads. One of these connected the rivers Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt with the North Sea and is known by its modern name of ‘via belgica’. A second road connected the fertile loess soils just above current-day Aachen (Germany) with the Roman border at current-day Xanten, then the important Vetera army camp. On the crossroads of these two main Roman arteries, a roadside settlement arose, called Coriovallum. At a distance of approximately 10 leugae in each direction, other roadside settlements were founded, along the two main axis. Interestingly the augustan set-up survives until this day, with modern cities occupying the exact locations of those Roman roadside settlements and, in some places, even some roads.

Photo of the Roman Baths of Heerlen, showing the situation at the end of the excavation in 1941. It was located at the heart of the Roman roadside settlement of Coriovallum.
However, our knowledge regarding these vici is limited at best. Although many excavations took place in the current-day cities of Heerlen, Maastricht, Aachen and Jülich, a comprehensive view of the development and functioning of the vici underneath them has yet to be obtained. Much of this early research took place in the period prior to 1940 and was never fully validated. Council archaeology today often lacks the means to provide a synthesising view. With this in mind, in 2012 a group of archaeologists from each of the four cities formed a research group, simply called ‘the vicus group’, with the aim of studying the material of each settlement, coming up with an overall research agenda and starting to answer some questions. An additional goal was to translate the new information for a wider audience in the form of exhibitions.

In this paper, the vicus of Coriovallum (Heerlen) will be introduced, together with its neighbours Aquae Granni (Aachen), Juliacum (Jülich) and Traiectum (Maastricht). Themes such as research history, problems of interpretation and find material will be discussed, as well as the new research agenda. It is hoped that this continental case study will contribute to the study of Roman roadside settlements in Britain, and of course it will be very interesting to be able to compare the different types of vici across the north of the Roman empire.

Suggested reading
Unfortunately, very few publications are available for Coriovallum (none in English) and the same goes for the neighbouring vici. In 2013 an edited version was published about Roman Aachen: Haehling, R. von, and Schaub, A. (eds), 2013, Römisches Aachen. Archäologisch-historische Aspekte zu Aachen und der Euregio, Aachen. The research project at the VU University, in which the speaker participated, resulted in an edited publication in 2011 that contains several articles about the landscape, the villa settlements and burial culture of the loess soil region in Northwest Europe: Roymans, N. and Derks, T. (eds), 2011: Villa landscapes in the Roman North. Economy, culture and lifestyles, Amsterdam Archaeological Studies 17, Amsterdam.

Biographical note
Karen Jeneson (1966) studied Provincial-Roman Archaeology at the VU University in Amsterdam (2000-2004). After working as a field archaeologist for two years, she obtained a research position in the State-funded research project ‘Roman villa landscapes in the North. Economy, culture, and lifestyles’ under Prof. Dr. Nico Roymans at the VU University (2006-2010). Her landscape-archaeological study focused on the spatial analysis of the entire Roman landscape on the loess-soils between Tongres (B) and Cologne (G). After finishing her PhD in 2012, she started working at the Roman Baths Museum at Heerlen as a curator. The museum collection consists, apart from the Roman bath house remains, of nearly all of the finds of the Roman town of Coriovallum.
**Roman roadside settlements in eastern England: patterns and variations**  
Dr Steve Willis

Eastern England during the Roman era, in common with much of lowland Britain, shows extensive examples of smaller nuclei in close relationship with the road system. The incidence and size of these smaller centres, together with their morphologies and building types, shows some marked patterning. Levels of uniformity and patterning raise questions about both their origins and character and that of the Roman roads on which they are located. For some scholars such patterning in their distribution, often between major towns, might suggest Imperial planning or that they are an expression of economics and geography. Roadside settlements have seen much in the way of excavation and study in the past 25 years as a result of developer funding and, significantly, Local Society and University projects coupling research and training. Accordingly we can now build a stronger understanding of these settlements.

This paper explores some of the intriguing issues, drawing on the comparatively large number of such sites known in eastern England. Specific case studies will be highlighted, as at Navenby, Hibaldstow, Nettleton, Shiptonthorpe and Hayton. Whereas a generation ago Roadside Settlements were typically thought to emerge as Roman phenomena in the early second century AD we are now much better informed as to their origins: many having been in the prehistoric period places of settlement and ceremony. Further, trends in the types of buildings present and site layout suggest something of a shared template, yet deeper analysis shows vernacular variation. Finds from these sites are more often than not prolific and through the examination of these artefact assemblages we can discern something of the nature and trends in consumption. Equally, study of the materials used to construct buildings is revealing of degrees of investment and exchange connections. What is less certain, and tends to be surmised rather than established by firm evidence, is what roles in economy and society these sites played. Though Roadside Settlements are a distinctive element of the landscape of Roman Britain we can ask to what extent these sites were a product simply of the new regimes following from the Roman conquest or developed from later prehistoric forms. An expression of the fabric and vitality of the wider settlement system and economy, sites of this type in eastern England nonetheless show dimensions of variation that remind us that life and place in Roman Britain was complex, multi-faceted and absorbing to study and learn about.

**Further Reading**


Roadside settlements and their defences north of the Thames
Ernest Black

Ernest Black examines the role of fort-annexes, wagon-parks and mansiones in military supply. A programme of enclosing mansiones and/or parts of roadside settlements began on selected routes in the early 170s, probably under military supervision. Before this was completed other settlements on different routes received ramparts of larger size and at some of the earlier enclosed sites ramparts were widened. This continued well into the third century and may have been carried out without direct military involvement, though still under the control of provincial governors. The distribution had gaps in Kent and north of London and during the third century in East Anglia and southern England existing circuits were neglected and no walls were added to them as happened further north. This may reflect a difference in the destination of supplies collected at and passing through these settlements and administration by different authorities.

Military Supply
Tacitus Agricola 19.4-5 (Winter AD 78-79)
“He made the levying of grain and taxes less harsh by equalising the burdens and he cut out practices that had been devised for profit and which were resented more than the taxation itself. For they were made the subject of mockery by being compelled to attend at granaries and, although these remained locked, actually to buy grain and to pay to meet their quota. Journeys along by-roads and to distant regions were being prescribed so that civitates had to deliver to remote and inaccessible places, even though there were bases close to them, until what was easy for all was becoming a scam for a few.”

The transport of supplies to military consumers must have continued to be a problem with the expansion of the province by Agricola himself beyond the territories annexed by his predecessors Cerialis and Frontinus. A solution may have been sought in designating delivery-points on major roads to which the British civitates could bring grain and other supplies from a reasonable distance. From these the forward movement of supplies may have been undertaken by contractors or they may have been collected by military personnel. Clues that both systems were in use come from the Vindolanda writing-tablets. See A. Birley Garrison Life at Vindolanda (Tempus, 2002), 89-94. TV 1108 of Period I or II (A.D. 85-105) is a letter concerning the reloading of bracis (a grain used in brewing) from Britons’ wagons on to larger wagons for onward transport and also discusses the cost of transport. The name of the addressee does not survive but he may have been a civilian contractor.

Tacitus Agricola 22.2, praising Agricola’s choice of fort-sites in southern Scotland at the end of his third season as governor (AD 80), notes that: “Sallies [from the forts] could be made frequently for they were strengthened against the restrictions of a siege by provisioning sufficient for a year.”

These forts will have received a single delivery of grain, presumably in September soon after the harvest. It is implicit that deliveries to other forts could have been made more frequently and in smaller amounts. A grain account from Vindolanda (TV 1095) records grain received from the decurion Masclus in June and again in early September. Birley (2002, 90) suggests that Masclus and his detachment were in charge of escorting grain-wagons. The June entry, coming shortly before the harvest, is surprising and may indicate
that tax-payers delivered grain for the army at intervals (? every three months) from granaries on their farms. The abuse recorded by Tacitus in Agricola 19.4 (see above) would most easily fit the context of the final delivery shortly before the harvest in a series spaced over the year.

**Dates and Events**

c.158-160+ Withdrawal from Antonine Wall and re-occupation of Hadrian’s Wall; forts on Dere Street as far as Newstead continued to be held.

161-169 Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus co-emperors.

166 Verus’ army brings plague from the East (the Antonine Plague).

172-174/5 ? Q. Antistius Adventus governor of Britain. Antistius had been in charge of securing Italy and the Alps in the German expedition of 168 (leg. Aug. at praetenturam Italiae et Alpium expeditione Germanica) and was governor of Lower Germany by 170. In 170 the Marcomanni invaded Italy and besieged Aquileia.

174/5-176/7 ? Caerellius governor of Britain. Known only from an inscription set up in Mainz. Had governed Upper Moesia followed by Raetia and Upper Germany jointly.

175 5,500 Sarmatian horsemen (Iazyges) sent to Britain.

23rd March 178 Ulpius Marcellus attested as governor of Britain on military diplomas. Governor ?176/7-179/80. Perhaps the same as L. Ulpius Marcellus recorded as governor of Lower Pannonia on an undated inscription.

177-180 Commodus co-emperor with Marcus. 180-192 Commodus sole emperor.

? 182 or 183 Crossing of Hadrian’s Wall by barbarians; defeat and death of unknown governor. Commodus sends Ulpius Marcellus back to Britain to deal with the barbarians. Victory commemorated on coins in 184 and Commodus takes the title Britannicus Maximus.

? 184 Soldiers in Britain offer the imperial power to legionary legate Priscus who refuses it. The Praetorian Prefect Perennis replaces senatorial legionary legates in Britain by equestrians.

185 1,500 legionary soldiers from Britain meet Commodus near Rome and denounce Perennis who is killed.

185-187 P. Helvius Pertinax governor. He was engaged in suppressing mutiny in the British legions and was recalled at his own request. In c.168 he had been in charge of supplies (alimenta) on the via Aemilia in support of the German expedition and in 170 and later he played a major role in the wars against the German tribes.

192 Assassination of Commodus.

193-197 Civil wars between Septimius Severus and Pescennius Niger and then between Severus and Clodius Albinus (governor of Britain). Defeat and death of Albinus at battle of Lyon (February 197).

208-211 Severan expedition to Britain.

The known governors in the 170s and 180s were men who had direct experience of the German and Sarmatian wars or will have learned the lessons imposed by these campaigns. At least two of them (Antistius and Pertinax) had held posts involving communications and supply to the rear of the main theatres of engagement. It is suggested that it was these men who initiated the provision of fortified collection-points for military supplies at roadside settlements in Britain. The dating of the Chelmsford defences to 170/175 indicates that the first phase of this programme, with defences copying those of auxiliary forts and perhaps built by soldiers or under military supervision, can be attributed to Antistius.

The second phase, with generally wider ramparts of dump construction, can probably be
dated after the invasion of 182 or 183. At this time the Roman army in Britain was mutinous and it may not have been possible to employ the soldiers in such work. It is suggested that the task was undertaken by the civitates. The initial programme may have been suspended after the departure of Antistius, perhaps because his successors were not convinced of its usefulness. If so, this was revised after the invasion of 182 or 183.

Reading
E.W. Black, 1995 ‘Cursus Publicus, the infrastructure of government in Roman Britain’. BAR British Series 241 (Tempus Reparatum)
J. Crickmore, 1984 ‘Romano-British Urban Defences’. BAR British Series 126

Biographical note
E. W. Black took a degree in Classics and Ancient History followed by an MA in the History and Archaeology of Roman Britain under Professor A.L.F. Rivet. He was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1988. Roman research interests include villas, brick and tile, provincial administration and infrastructure, religion and burial customs and he has published a number of papers and/or books on these topics.
The nature of Roman roadside settlements in Surrey and Sussex
Dr David Bird

The recent increase in our knowledge about Roman roadside settlements in the South-East should not be allowed to obscure the fact that the evidence is still very limited. We have only to remember that several of the sites being discussed today were largely if not completely unknown until very recently to realise that there is a long way to go. It remains the case that there are places where we do not even know for certain if a roadside settlement as such existed; places like Croydon, Dorking or Godstone for example. Some of these settlements are postulated on the basis of a known road, but as the road network itself also has gaps it remains difficult to suggest the probable location of others with any degree of confidence.

If one cannot even be certain about a site, then determining its function is clearly going to be difficult! The evidence we have from the known sites is itself very partial. And it is becoming increasingly clear that the Roman South-East differs in various ways from other parts of the country so we cannot simply ‘import’ models based on what happens elsewhere.

That said, at least some roads are reasonably well-established and a case can be made for nucleated settlements on many of them. In northern Surrey there are sites that form part of a probable ring around London. Ewell on Stane Street is also reasonably well known, although this site may have been something of a ritual centre and not, as is sometimes assumed, one of the official posting stations on the London-Chichester road. Sites in the south of the county are more difficult to interpret. The case for Flexford on the putative London-Winchester road will be explored in more detail by David Calow. In Sussex attention has tended to focus on (and has to some extent been sidetracked by) the defensive enclosures at the posting stations on Stane Street and the Chichester-Silchester road. More recent work, for example at Alfoldean, has made it possible to see these sites more clearly and given us important new sites as at Arlington and Bridge Farm. The latter will receive more detailed attention from Rob Wallace and David Millum. Other sites can be postulated particularly along the course of the Greensand Way especially at the main river crossings.

This talk will aim to use the available evidence to make some suggestions about origins, functions and governance of the roadside settlements of Surrey and Sussex and briefly consider changes through time.

References
Information on recent fieldwork is also usually available in Britannia round-ups or online.

Biographical note
David Bird is President of Surrey Archaeological Society and a former Surrey county archaeologist whose published work includes consideration of the countryside around Roman London, the ‘invasion’ of AD 43 and Roman gold-mining.
**Flexford, Surrey – a rural periodic market?**
**David Calow**

The Romano-British roadside settlement at Flexford near Guildford was unsuspected until discovered by the landowner in 2007. Today the site is pasture. The upper 30cm has been ploughed in the past but deeper features are usually intact. There are Romano-British sites nearby; Broad Street villa and aisled building (Poulton, 2005), Wanborough Temple (Williams, 2008) and a predicted east west Roman road (Bird, 1987). The nearest known Roman small towns are Staines and Neatham, each 14 miles away.

Surrey Archaeological Society members explored the site by magnetometry, resistivity, metal detecting and test pits. These showed 10 hectares with coins, ditches, pits, flint surfaces and areas of burning dating from the Roman period. Society members, with advice from specialists, subsequently excavated larger trenches covering in total 1.5% of the site. These revealed the predicted east west Roman road with a north south track, ditches and structures 100-200m north of the road and four busta – human cremations in pyre pits - 100m south of the road. Little has been found by the road itself.

The earliest features are a Late Bronze Age pit and ditch. No Iron Age material has been found dating before the early first century AD after which the site was used until the early fifth century then probably abandoned until the 1300s. Most activity is north of the road. There is what appears to be a first century shrine with iron smithing nearby, a later track, enclosure ditches, structured deposits, flint surfaces, an aisled building and at least five other rectilinear structures. The shrine appears to have been replaced at the end of the third century, an event perhaps marked by a ritual pit. The east west road seems to date from the mid second century to the fifth century. Radiocarbon analyses from the four busta to the south suggest dates in the third and fourth century.

700 Roman coins have been found, of which 58% were minted before AD 260. This compares with a national average of fewer than 20% minted before AD 260. Flexford has also produced 22 Roman steelyard weights. The finds are spread across the site with no indication of hoards. Apart from perhaps Godstone in East Surrey it is difficult to find a similar site.

It is not easy to interpret Flexford. There is evidence for religious activity but less for domestic settlement. The early coins may suggest religious offerings but steelyard weights suggest weighing. Could this be religious site with a rural periodic market or would further investigation give a different explanation?

**References**


**Biographical note**

Honorary Secretary of Surrey Archaeological Society; directed Society excavations at Flexford 2008-2015.
Road and riverside settlement at Bridge Farm, Sussex: from defenceless to defended?
Rob Wallace and David Millum

The Culver Archaeological Project: CAP was founded in 2005 by Robert Wallace to investigate the wider historic landscape surrounding the 3rd-4th century villa complex at Barcombe, near Lewes. Rob discovered a substantial Roman road to the west of the River Ouse and instigated a programme of geophysical surveys and targeted excavations along the road’s corridor, identifying several sites of roadside activity.

In 2011 CAP moved their investigations to Bridge Farm on the east bank of the river to locate the Roman London road (Margary 14), where extensive geophysics led to the discovery of a substantial Romano-British settlement. In 2012 CAP was awarded a Heritage Lottery grant which funded the 2013 excavations to the south east corner of the settlement, involving the local community and schools, and funding full post-excavation analysis. In 2014 CAP undertook a self-funded excavation to the south west of the main settlement over a rectangular feature of 13 large postholes and in 2015 excavated in the north east corner of the settlement at the intersection of the London road and double-ditch enclosure and this will continue in 2016.

The co-directors of the project, Rob Wallace and David Millum, will give an introduction to the Bridge Farm site and the results from the last 5 years’ investigations. This will range from the foundation of an open settlement in the late 1st century AD, through its enclosure by a substantial double ditch in the late 2nd, to its reversion to a more open community during the 3rd and 4th centuries. Whilst it is still early days in the investigation of this important site an attempt will be made to set the settlement in its wider context and make comparison with some of the sites presented earlier in the day.
**Suggested reading**

**Biographical notes**
Rob Wallace: Rob gained his honours degree in Egyptian Archaeology at UCL before moving to Sussex University for a Masters in Field Archaeology. Whilst supervising at the Barcombe Villa excavations in 2005 he started to investigate the wider historic landscape of Barcombe. He has directed a summer excavation in the Barcombe area every year since and in 2015 instigated a summer training course for undergraduates with Canterbury Christchurch University.

David Millum: David undertook a BA in Landscape Studies (Archaeology) at Sussex before continuing for a Masters in Field Archaeology. He supervised at the Barcombe bathhouse excavations and was an Associate Tutor at Sussex University until the closure of Archaeology Department. He joined CAP in 2007 as Site Supervisor becoming Deputy Director in 2011.
Sussex Archaeological Society

Sussex Archaeological Society is celebrating its 170th anniversary this year, making it one of the oldest county archaeological societies in the country. The Society offers a range of benefits for members, including our annual publication, the Sussex Archaeological Collections, a thrice-yearly magazine, Sussex Past and Present, and a regular e-newsletter. These, in addition to an active conference and events programme, keep members informed about recent developments regarding the history and archaeology of the historic county of Sussex.

The Society also owns and opens to the public six historic properties and museums to which members have free entry. These are Anne of Cleves House, Lewes Castle and Barbican House Museum, all in Lewes, Fishbourne Roman Palace just outside Chichester, the Priest House at West Hoathly (near East Grinstead), Marlipins Museum in Shoreham and Michelham Priory at Upper Dicker, near Hailsham.

The Society’s extensive reference Library is based at Barbican House in Lewes, and is open to members to use whenever Barbican House is open. Non-members may also visit from Monday to Friday subject to normal opening hours. The Library contains an extensive collection of volumes on archaeology and local history, archaeological reports and national and county based journals covering archaeology and local history.

If you are not already a member, do consider joining to support us in all our activities. Membership forms are available at the registration desk, and you can also join at any of our properties or online at www.sussexpast.co.uk/shop/membership.

The Society is an independent charity with no public funding, and so relies very heavily on income we can generate, on membership and on grants and donations. If you shop online, we would urge you to help us by signing up to the easyfundraising website which helps to raise money for charities through online shopping. The site, www.easyfundraising.org.uk/ has developed links with 2700 major online retailers, including such names as Amazon, John Lewis, Argos, M&S, etc, etc, who agree to make a donation to a charity of your choice when you buy goods from them.

It is very straightforward – you register with www.easyfundraising.org.uk/ and select your charity. The Society’s page is www.easyfundraising.org.uk/sussexas.

Once you have registered and chosen your charity to support, every time you want to buy online you should go to the easyfundraising website first and then click through to your chosen retailer. This way they know you have come from easyfundraising. You then go ahead with the purchase as usual – the prices remain exactly the same as they would be if you had gone directly to the retailer’s site. The amount of the donation varies from retailer to retailer, but the easyfundraising site collects it from the retailer and passes it on to the charity. There is a good faqs page on their site which should answer any questions you may have.
The Society is publishing a series of books to mark the creation of the South Downs National Park, in conjunction with the SDNP authority. The three books published to date are:

- *The Archaeology of the South Downs National Park*, by John Manley
- *The Natural History of the South Downs National Park*, by Robin Crane and Rendel Williams
- *The Geology and Scenery of the South Downs National Park*, by David Robinson

The books are available to buy from our bookstall at the conference, from the shops in all our properties and from various local bookshops in Sussex. You may also buy online from our website, [www.sussexpast.co.uk/south-downs-book-series](http://www.sussexpast.co.uk/south-downs-book-series). Further books are in preparation on the subjects of Vernacular Buildings of the South Downs and Sussex Churches of the South Downs. More information on the publication dates will be made available on our website in due course.

Don’t miss our next conference on Saturday 15 October 2016. The title is *The Age of Luxury: the Georgian Country House and its setting c1700-1820*. Leaflets are available from the registration desk and you can visit [www.sussexpast.co.uk/event/luxury](http://www.sussexpast.co.uk/event/luxury) to book online.