

10th Year!

Practical Archaeology



- Roman Split — 2009 KAFS Field Trip
 - Excavate at Oplontis this summer
 - Ten years review of KAFS work
- Complete listing of KAFS Courses in 2009

FIRST WORDS



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 about Iron Age and Roman Pottery and we closed bookings at fifty people. It was obvious by then that there was a tremendous need for people to enjoy all aspects of our programme of practical archaeology.

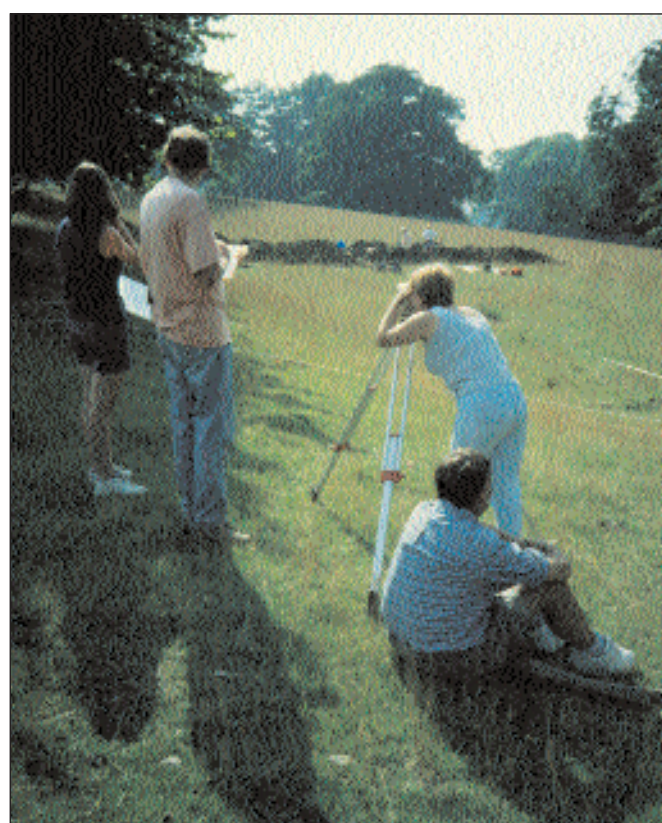
That year the oast building was still undergoing rebuild and restoration,- the public toilets were outside and water had not yet been connected- the roof also needed to be tiled, but the seeds of a successful enterprise had been sown and the next ten years saw a tremendous growth with students of all 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 and 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.

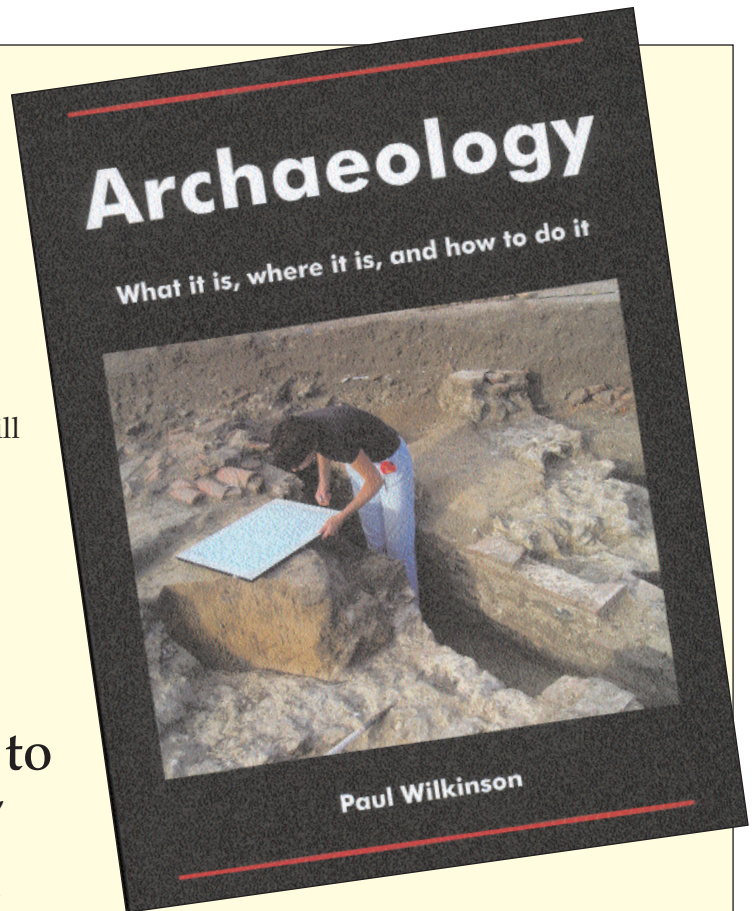
Today, and Minerva. These tours have proved so popular that we now run a sister company called 'Roman Holidays' with Thomson Holidays (TUI).

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

Paul Wilkinson

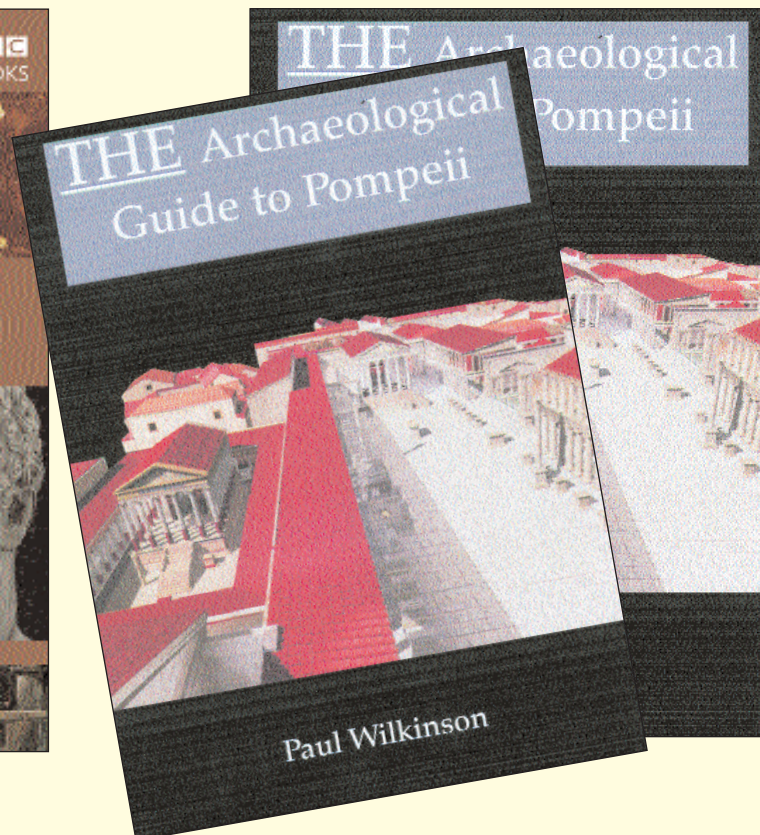
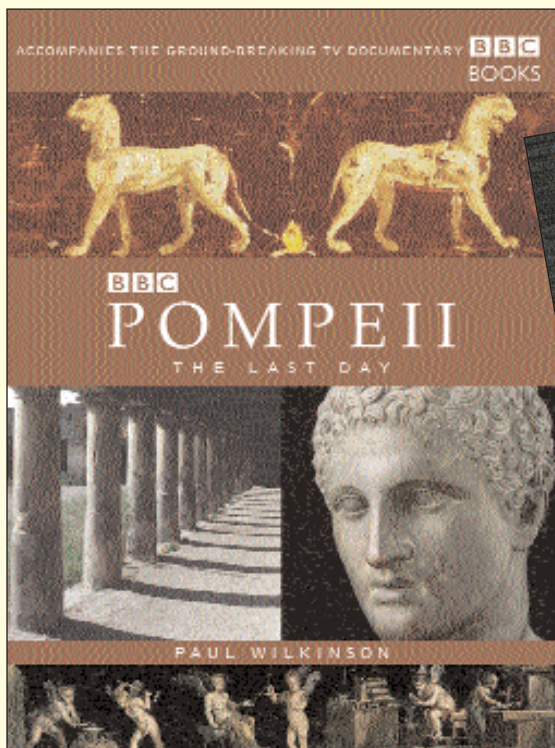
FIRST WORDS

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 spurting 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

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



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

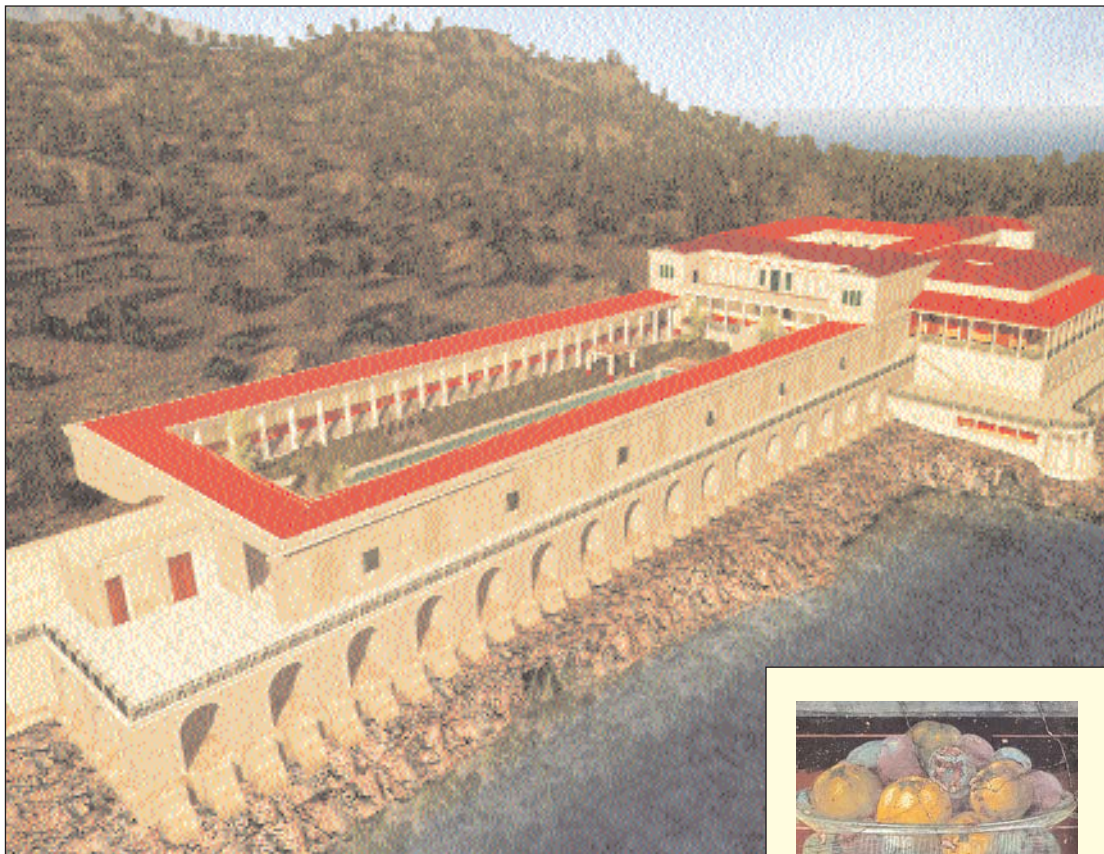
virtual reality reconstruction (above) shows the library being packed on the eve of the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79.

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.

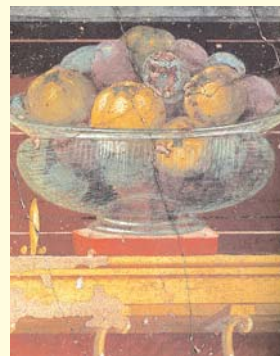
"Work can resume because we are combining archaeology with responsible conservation, which was not the case in the 1990s," said Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, head of the Herculaneum Conservation Project, which is funded by the Packard Humanities Institute to the tune of \$3 million (£1.5 million) a year.



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



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

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

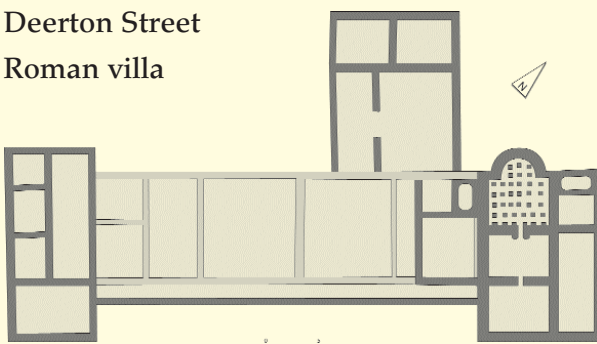
pottery, window glass, tessellated floors (it seems the mosaic floor may have been removed during Victorian excavations) and a coin series ending with coins of Arcadius (AD 395-402).

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.

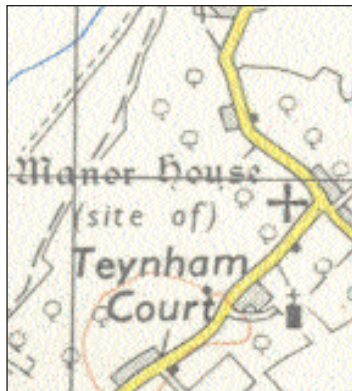
The presence of Alice Holt ware and late Roman grog-tempered ware suggests that activity on the site probably extended into the 4th century.

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



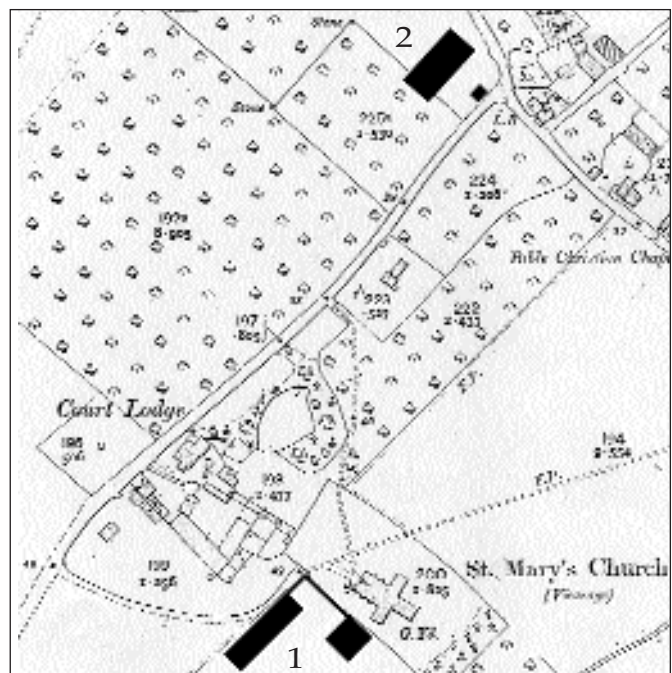
Investigation by students of the KAFS at Teynham in Kent located the site of the summer residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury where it had been mapped in the 1930's (left). It has been suggested

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 signinum*.

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.

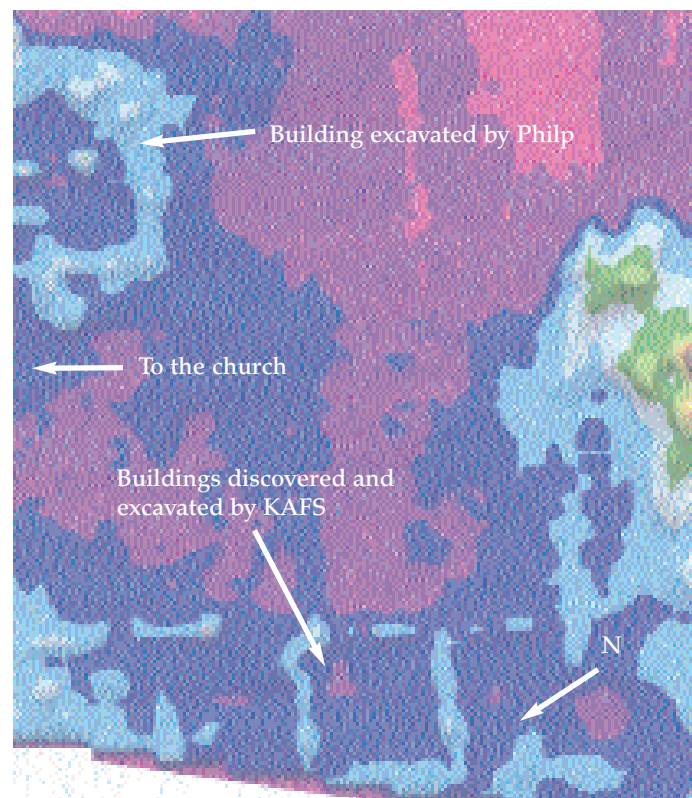
The combined total of 210 sherds (2.881kg) of pottery was recovered from the two sites, most of it medieval and post-medieval. Small amounts of Iron Age and Roman pottery occur residually on the church site, as does a single Anglo-Saxon sherd of the 5/6th century.

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

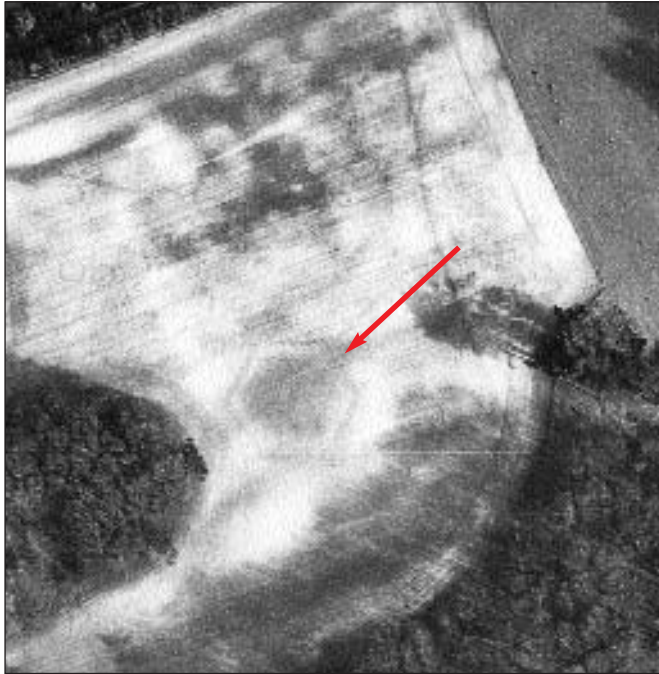


those at Canterbury, which was probably supplied by a more easterly source. As at nearby Iwade (to the west) and Faversham (to the east), Tyler Hill ware is the dominant pottery type of the 13–14th century. This comprises mostly utilitarian glazed jugs, but the palace site at Teynham also produced a 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 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.

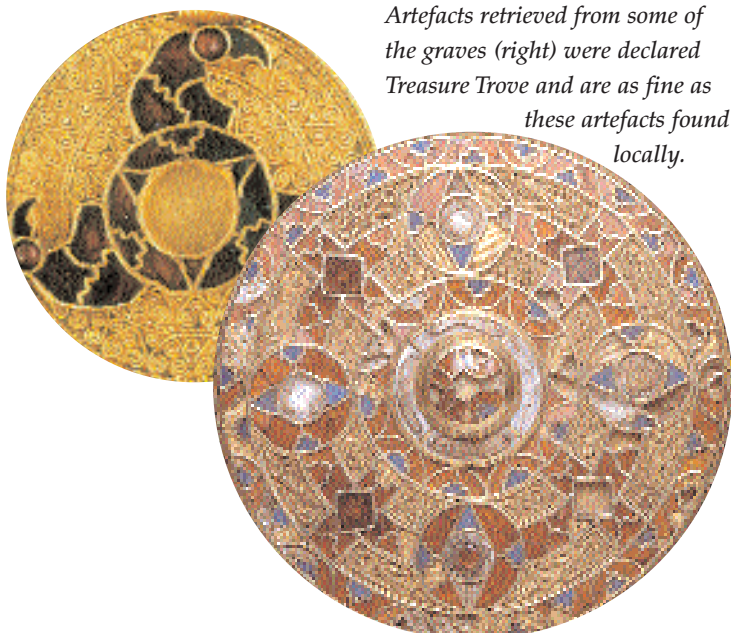
Over 90 Anglo-Saxon graves were revealed along with Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age buildings and features.

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).

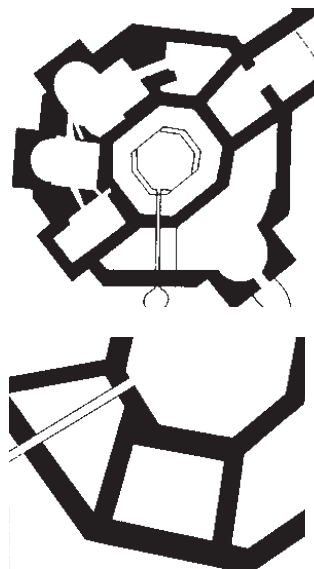
Some rooms had underfloor heating, with alcoves containing hot plunge baths. The excavated base of a rectangular pillar suggests the bath house was arcaded.

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

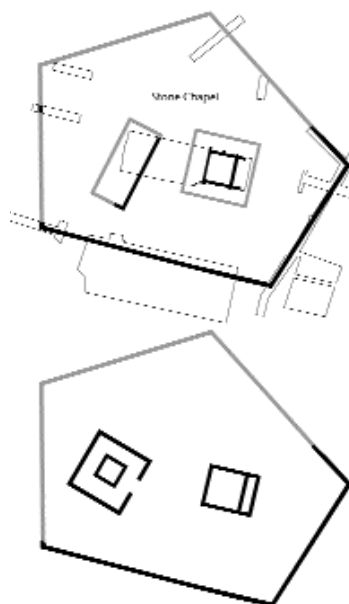
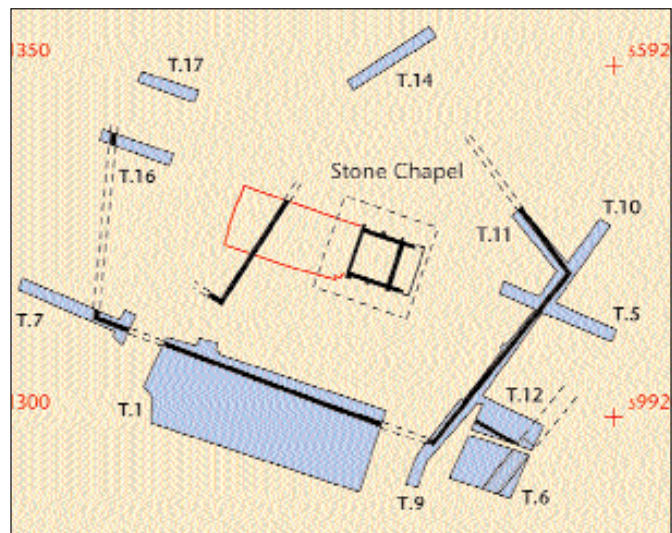
Stone Chapel

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

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.

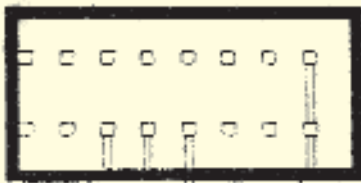
FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW



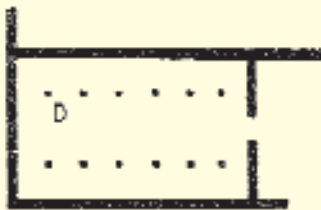
Holbury, Hants. 1:60



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.

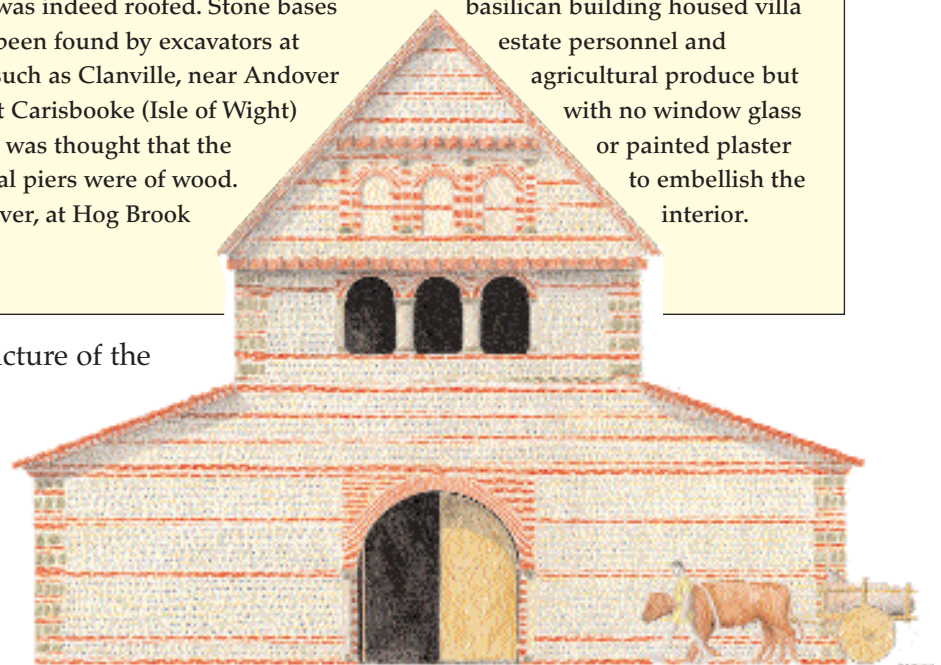
Hog Brook is one of the largest rural basilican buildings found in Britain, at 35m (117ft) longer than Ickleton (78ft) and Spoonley Wood (60ft). The main villa at Hog Brook is less than 150 metres away and it is likely that the

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.

JT 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.

FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW



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

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 ailed buildings in Roman Britain, was emphatic "that there was no magic in

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 ailed 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 ailed 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 ailed buildings were more akin to medieval and post-medieval ailed barns.

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 ailed 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 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

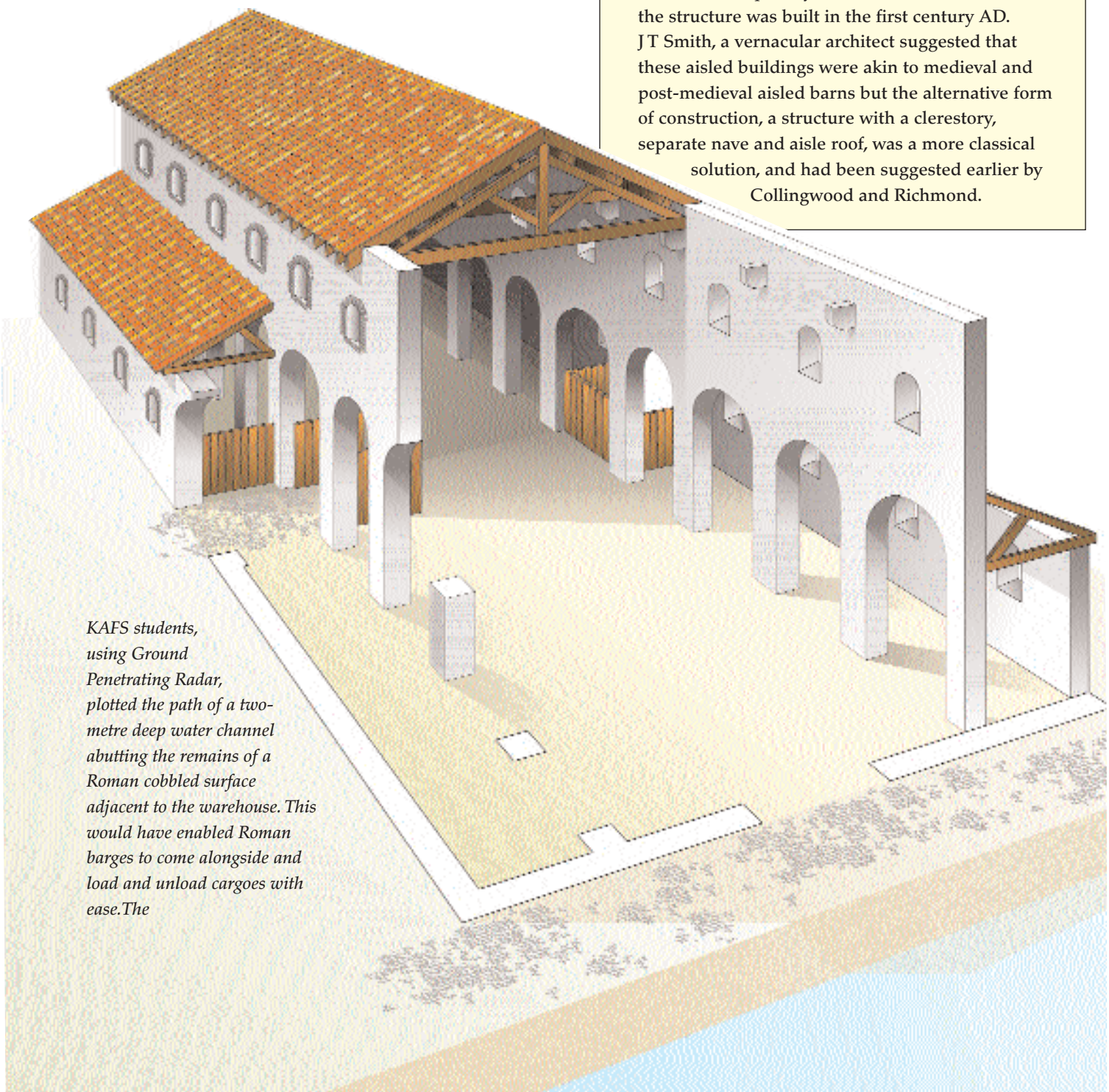
modern times when the medieval dwellings were demolished and replaced with council houses.

FIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

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 corbels, 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 Hadrians 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.



KAFS students, using Ground Penetrating Radar, plotted the path of a two-metre deep water channel abutting the remains of a Roman cobbled surface adjacent to the warehouse. This would have enabled Roman barges to come alongside and load and unload cargoes with ease. The