

CSCP Support Materials

Teaching Support Publication

for

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Unit 9522: Roman Civilisation Topics
Topic 2: Roman Britain

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Introduction

This booklet of sources on Roman Britain is intended to support teachers and students preparing for Topic 2 of the WJEC **Level 2** Certificate in Latin Language and Roman Society.

Important notice: the purpose and status of this booklet

The purpose of this booklet is to provide teachers with a wide range of sources for their teaching. It should therefore be considered only as a **teaching support publication**. At Level 2 such booklets are **not** intended to be definitive catalogues of sources which may be used in the examination and students should not attempt, nor be encouraged, to 'rote learn' the sources contained within. Although examiners may use some of the sources in the booklets, other similar sources may also be used in the Level 2 examination.

Likewise, teachers should feel under no obligation to study any or all of the sources contained herein with their students.

Note on differences between Level 1 and Level 2

Different regulations apply at Level 1 and Level 2. At Level 1, shorter booklets containing a restricted number of sources are available. The Level 1 examination papers will use only sources from the Level 1 booklets. Please visit the WJEC website, or the Level 1 area of this website, for the Level 1 booklets.

Relevant Stages of the *Cambridge Latin Course*

Books II and III of the *Cambridge Latin Course* and the accompanying *Teacher's Guides* contain a significant amount of primary source material, together with explanatory texts, to support this topic:

Stage 13: Country villas and farming

Stage 14: The early years

Stage 14: Roads, travel and trade

Stage 15: Cogidubnus and Fishbourne palace

Stage 16: Cogidubnus and Fishbourne palace

Stages 21-23: Bath

Stage 24: Roads, travel and trade

Stage 26: Agricola

The early years

Cassius Dio LX.19-21

The Britons then withdrew to the River Tamesis to a point near where it flows into Oceanus and where a lake is formed at high tide. This they crossed easily because they knew where the firm ground and the fording places were. But the Romans were not so successful when they tried to follow. However, the Gauls again swam across while some others got over by means of a bridge a little way upstream. After this they attacked the barbarians from several sides at once and killed many of them. In chasing after the enemy, they did not look where they were going, and so landed in swampy ground which was impossible to get out of and lost a large number of men.

Shortly after this Togodumnus was killed. This made the Britons even more determined not to give up. They organised themselves for revenge. Because of the difficulties Plautius had run into at the River Tamesis, he began to fear what would happen if he advanced any further. So he decided to hold on to what he had already won and to send for Claudius. He had been instructed to do this if he met any particularly strong resistance. In fact Claudius was ready waiting to come with a large army, well equipped with armaments including elephants.

When the news reached him, Claudius put his fellow consul L. Vitellius in charge of home affairs including the command of the army. He then set out himself on his expedition. He sailed down the river to Ostia and from there he followed the coast to Massilia. From that point he travelled partly by land and partly along the rivers. He reached Oceanus and crossed over to Britain and joined the legions that were waiting for him on the Tamesis. He took charge of the troops and crossed the river. Then he attacked the barbarians who had come together to meet him as he advanced. He defeated them in battle and captured Camulodunum, the capital of Cunobelin.

From then on he won over to his side many tribes; some surrendered to him after negotiations, but others were forced to give in. Claudius was hailed as Imperator on several occasions, although it was not possible for anyone to be given this title more than once during the same war. All tribes that surrendered were made to hand over all their weapons to Plautius. Claudius gave instructions that all the remaining parts of Britain were to be conquered. He then hurried back to Rome sending ahead news of his victory. The senate, on learning of his success, awarded him the title of 'Britannicus' and gave him permission to celebrate a triumph. It was also agreed that a festival should be held every year to celebrate the event. They also set up two triumphal arches, one in Rome and one in Gaul because it was from that country that Claudius had set sail when he crossed over to Britain.



Bust of Claudius, River Alde, Saxmundham, Suffolk (replica)



Aureus of Emperor Claudius, AD 52

Tacitus, Agricola 14

The next governor of Britain after Aulus Plautius was Ostorius Scapula. Each man was in his own way a distinguished soldier. The nearest part of Britain was gradually made into a province. A colonia of veteran soldiers was set up there. Some tribal states were handed over to King Cogidumnus who has remained completely loyal down to our own times. This is a good example of how we Romans use even kings to help us make people slaves.



Map of Britain in the first century AD



Tombstone, Colchester, first century AD (RIB 201)

Longinus Sdapeze, son of Matygius, duplicarius in the first cavalry regiment of Thracians from the district of Sardica, aged forty, of fifteen years' service, lies buried here; his heirs had this set up under his will.

Cassius Dio LXII.1-2

Two cities were sacked, 80,000 Romans and their allies were killed, and the island was lost to the Romans. What made matters worse was that all this ruin was brought about by a woman; this in itself was something to be deeply ashamed of.

This woman was Boudica, a Briton of royal family. The rebels considered her to be their ablest leader. She was much more intelligent than women usually are. She was very tall, and she looked terrifying with a fierce glint in her eyes and with a raucous voice. A great mass of startling yellow hair hung down to her hips. Around her neck she had a huge torque of gold and she wore a dress of many colours with a thin cloak over it pinned together with a brooch. This was the way she normally dressed. She had gathered together an army of about 120,000 men.

Tacitus, Annales XIV.31

Boudica's husband, Prasutagus, had been the king of the Iceni. He lived a long life and was famous for his great wealth. In his will he had named Caesar and his two daughters as co-heirs. He did this thinking that it would mean that his kingdom and his family would be safe when he died. What happened was quite the opposite, for his kingdom was ravaged by centurions and his house by slaves, just as if they were the spoils of war.

To begin with Boudica was flogged and her daughters were raped. It was as if the whole territory had been presented to the Romans as a gift. All the chief men of the Iceni had their ancestral farms taken away from them and the king's own family were treated like slaves. Infuriated by these outrages and by the fear of worse to come now that the area had been made part of the province, they urged the Trinobantes to join them along with other tribes which were not yet broken by slavery and which were plotting with them to get back their freedom. They particularly hated the Roman veterans who had recently been settled at Camulodunum. These veterans had evicted the natives from their own homes, and had driven people from their own lands calling them 'captives' and 'slaves'. They were encouraged in this by the soldiers who looked forward to enjoying the same benefits themselves when they retired. To make matters worse the temple which had been built in honour of the divine Claudius constantly stared them in the face as a stronghold of permanent tyranny. Natives were chosen to be priests of this temple and they were expected to pour all their wealth into doing the job. There did not seem to be any great difficulty in destroying the settlement, for it had no walls to protect it. That was a point which our Roman generals had neglected. They had not bothered to build any, for they thought more of luxuries than of necessities.

Tacitus, Annales XIV.33-39

Suetonius on the other hand was quite unperturbed and marched straight through the middle of the rebel-held lands to Londinium. Although this place did not have the distinction of being a colonia, it was nevertheless a bustling community, important for its merchants and its trade. When he arrived there he was not sure whether to make it a base for his operations.

But, after considering how small his own forces were and the price that Petilius Cerialis had paid for acting rashly, he decided to give up the town of Londinium in order to save the province as a whole. He remained adamant in spite of the cries and tears of the inhabitants as they begged for help. He gave the signal for everyone to leave and allowed the inhabitants to join his army on the march. But those who stayed behind because they were women or too elderly or because they were too attached to the town were slaughtered by the enemy. The same disaster took place at the Roman city of Verulamium. For the barbarians with their usual love of plunder and their dislike of hard work ignored the forts and armed settlements and concentrated on those sites which were richest and where the defenders were less well protected. It is known that nearly 70,000 Roman citizens and their allies died in the places mentioned. For the enemy had no interest in taking or selling prisoners or in any other of the usual trade connected with war. Instead they were hell-bent on bloodshed and hangings, on burning and crucifying. It was as though they realised the day of reckoning would come, but they were determined to have their revenge first.

Boudica drove around to each of the tribes in turn with her daughters in front of her and cried, 'We Britons are used to fighting under women generals. I am descended from great men, but today I am not fighting for my kingdom or for my family fortunes. I am fighting as an ordinary woman; as one who has lost her freedom, who has been flogged, whose daughters have been outraged. Roman demands have reached such a point that not even the bodies of the elderly or of children are spared. But now the gods are on our side. They will help us to have our just revenge. One legion that dared to face us has already been destroyed. The others are hiding in their camps or looking round for a chance to escape. They will never be able to bear the roaring and shouting of all our thousands, not to mention our attack. If you think how many there are of you and the reasons for us being at war, then you must either win this battle or die. This is what I, a woman, am resolved to do. Let the men live and live as slaves, if they will.' Even Suetonius at this critical stage addressed his troops, in spite of the trust which he placed in the courage of his men. This is what he said.

'Take no notice of the roars of the enemy and their empty threats: there are more women than men in their ranks. They are unwarlike and have no weapons. The moment they see the steel blades and the courage of an enemy that has beaten them so often, they will turn tail and run. Even in an army composed of many legions there are few who win battle honours. Just think what added glory awaits you as a much smaller band of men if you win the reputation of a whole army! Just keep in close formation, throw your javelins and use your shield bosses to knock them down and your swords to kill them. Forget about plundering: when you have beaten them, everything will be yours.' Suetonius' veteran soldiers with their long experience of battle were all keen and ready to throw their javelins at a moment's notice. They were so fired by their commander's words that Suetonius had no doubt in his mind and gave the signal for battle to begin.

To begin with the legions stood where they were, keeping to the narrow valley for protection. When the enemy came closer, they threw their javelins with accurate aim and then rushed forward in a wedge formation. The auxiliaries charged in the same way and the cavalry with their spears at the ready broke down all who resisted them. The rest of the Britons fled, although it was not easy because the line of wagons blocked their way. The troops showed no mercy even to the women. The pack-animals had been killed by flying weapons and their bodies made the pile of dead even larger. It was a glorious victory, like those of earlier days: according to some accounts, a few less than 80,000 Britons perished but there were only 400 or so dead on our side with as many again injured. Boudica ended her life by taking poison.



Coin of Emperor Antoninus Pius, AD 154-5



Tombstone, London, late first century AD (RIB 12)

To the spirits of the departed and of Gaius Iulius Alpinus Classicianus, son of Gaius, of the Fabian voting tribe, ... procurator of the province of Britain. Julia Pacata Indiana, daughter of Indus, his wife, had this built.

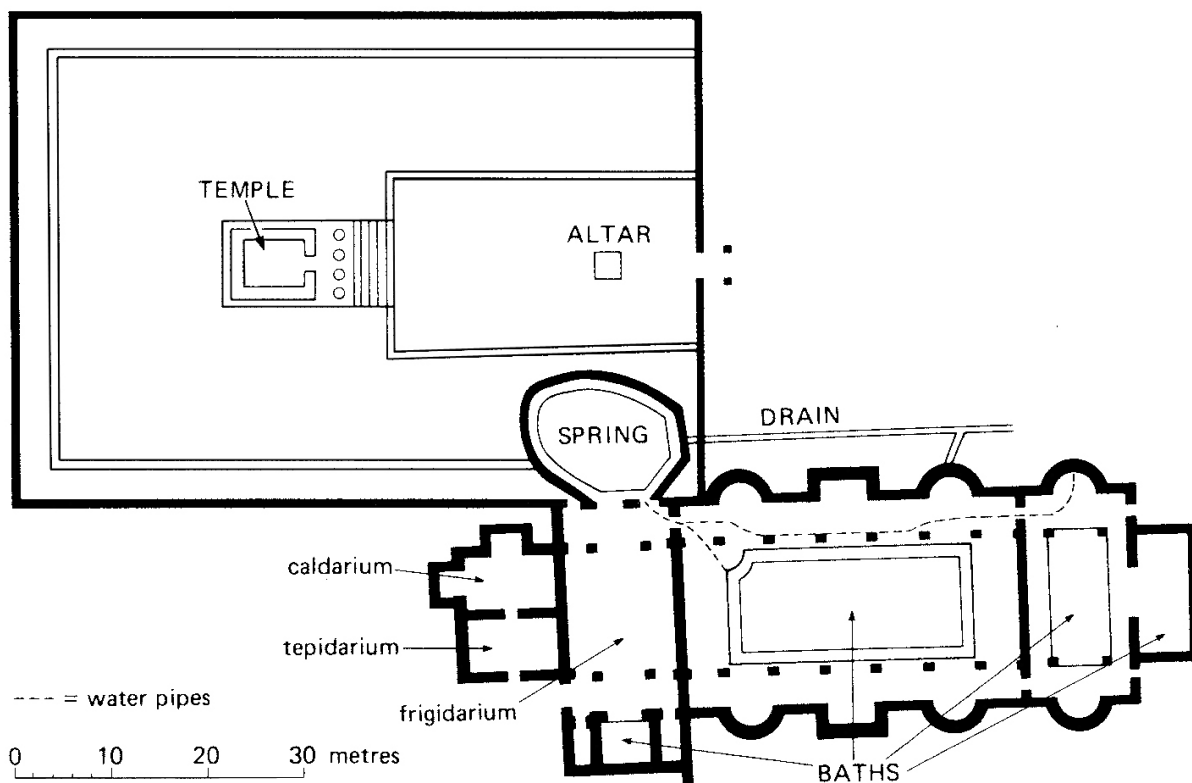
Bath

Solinus, de mirabilibus mundi 22

In Britain there are many great rivers and hot springs, adorned with sumptuous splendour for the use of mortals. Minerva is the patron goddess of these springs.



Gorgon's head, temple of Sulis Minerva, Bath



Plan of baths and temple, Bath



Lead pipe, Roman Baths, Bath

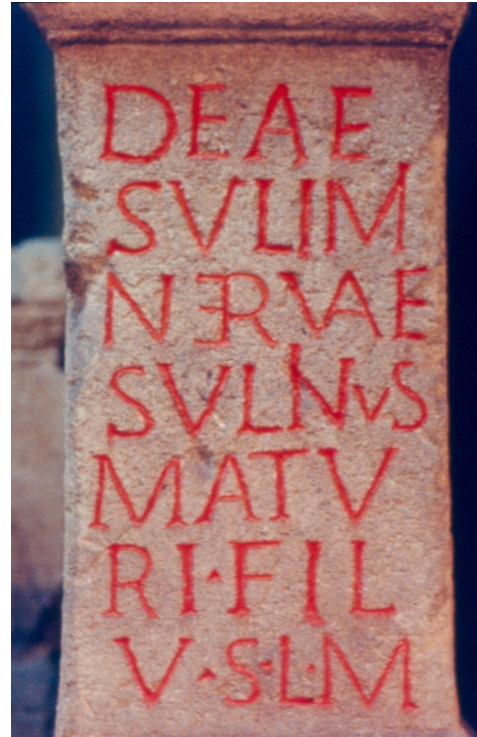


Hypocaust, tepidarium, Roman Baths, Bath



Statue base, Bath

Lucius Marcius Memor gave this as a gift to the goddess Sulis.



Altar, Bath

Sulinus, Son of Maturus, willingly and deservedly fulfilled his vow to the goddess Sulis Minerva.



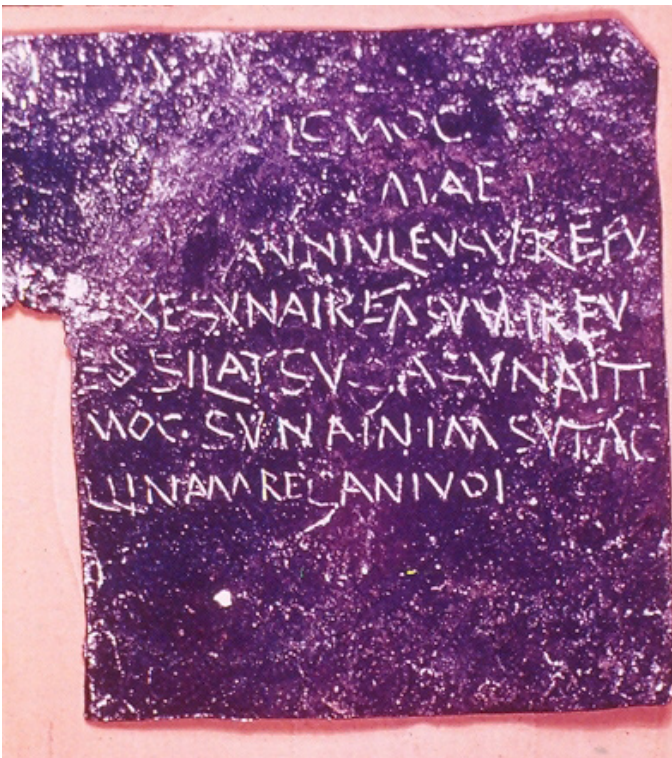
Altar, temple of Sulis Minerva, Bath



Gold earring, sacred spring, Bath

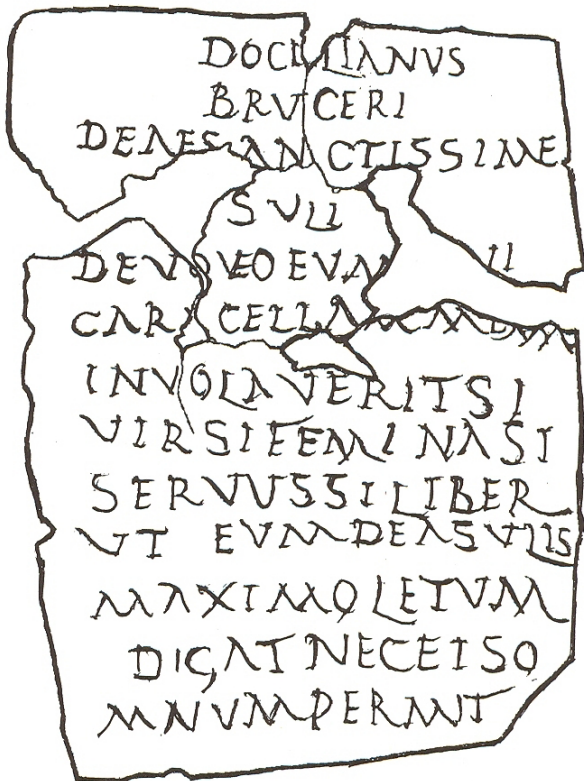


Finds from the sacred spring, Roman Baths, Bath



Curse tablet, Bath

May he who has taken my Vilbia dissolve like water. May she who has devoured her be struck dumb, whether it be Velvinna, Exsupereus, Verianus, Severinus, Augustalis, Comitianus, Catusminianus, Germanilla or Iovina.



Curse tablet, Bath

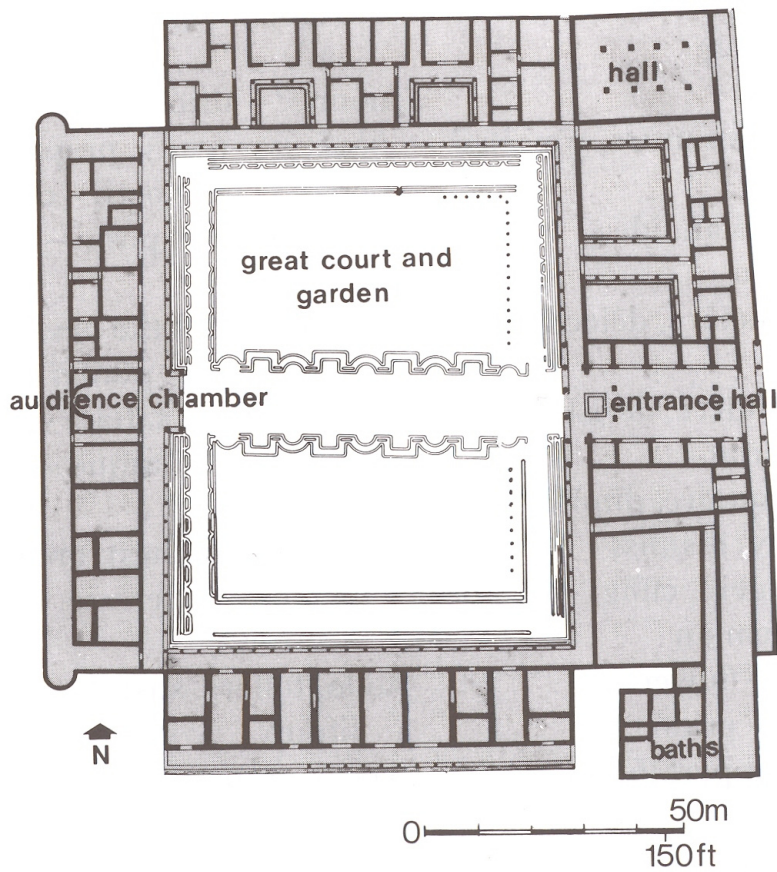
Docilianus, son of Brucerus, to the most holy goddess Sulis. I curse him who has stolen my hooded cloak, whether man or woman, whether slave or free, that ... the goddess Sulis inflict death upon ... and not allow him sleep or children, now or in the future, until he has brought my hooded cloak to the temple.



Drawing and inscription, tomb, Hadrumentum, North Africa

I charge you demon, whoever you are, and demand of you, from this day, from this hour, from this minute, that you torture the horses of the Greens and the Whites, and that you kill and crash their drivers, Clarus and Felix and Primulus and Romanus, and leave them without life. I charge you by the god of the sea, who set you free at the right time, and by the god of the air...

Cogidubnus and Fishbourne Palace



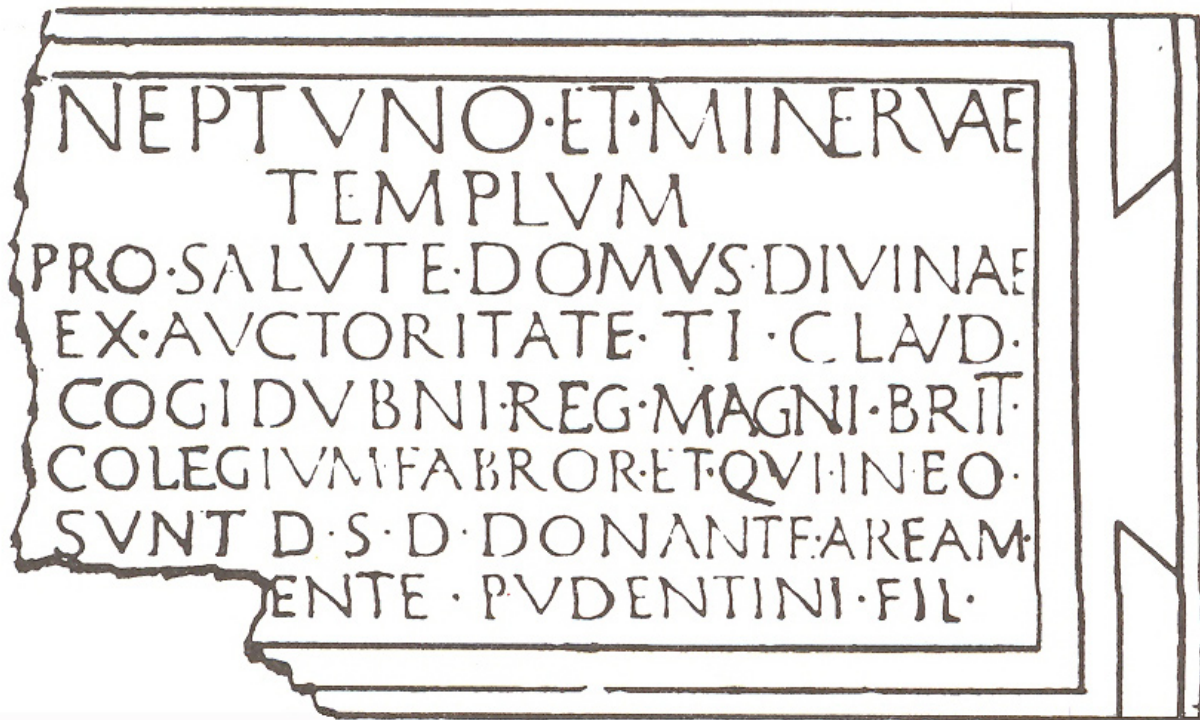
Plan of Fishbourne Palace



Model of Fishbourne Palace

Tacitus, Agricola 14

The nearest part of Britain was gradually made into a province. A colonia of veteran soldiers was set up there. Some tribal states were handed over to King Cogidumnus who has remained completely loyal down to our own times. This is a good example of how we Romans use even kings to help us make people slaves.



Temple dedication stone, Chichester (RIB 91)

To Neptune and Minerva, for the welfare of the divine house, by the authority of Tiberius Claudius Cogidubnus, Great King of the Britons, the Guild of Smiths and those in it gave this temple at their own expense. ...ens, son of Pudentinus, presented the forecourt.



Mosaic, north wing, Fishbourne Palace



Mosaic, north wing, Fishbourne Palace



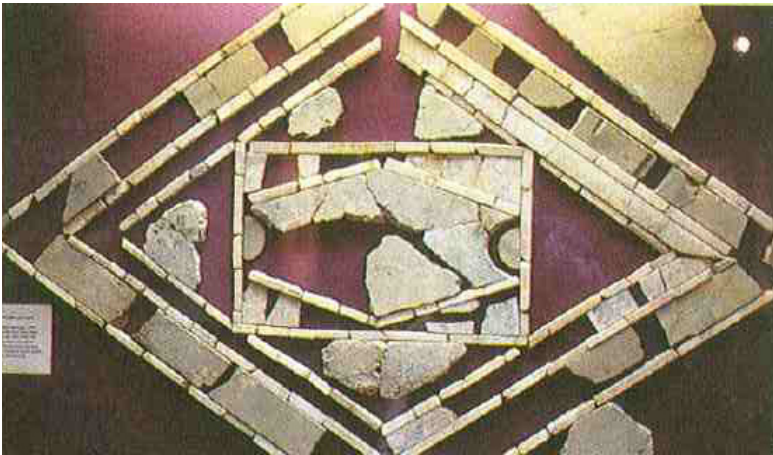
Mosaic, north wing, Fishbourne Palace



Stucco wall frieze, north wing, Fishbourne Palace



Fragment of painted wall plaster, Fishbourne Palace



Marble wall decoration, Fishbourne Palace



Bedding slots, garden, Fishbourne Palace



Box hedges, garden, Fishbourne Palace

Country villas and farming



Wall-painting of a villa, Trier

Columella, *De Re Rustica* I.6

The size of the villa and the number of its parts should all be in proportion, and it should be divided into three areas: the living area, the farming area, and the storage area. The living area should be subdivided into winter and summer apartments, so that the winter bedrooms face south-east to get the sun in the morning, and the winter dining-room faces west to get the sun in the evening. The summer bedrooms, on the other hand, should face south, but the summer dining-rooms should face south east. The baths should face north-west, so that they may have light from midday right up to evening. The perystilia should be sited so that they receive both the maximum of sun in winter and the minimum in summer.

In the farming part of the villa there should be a large kitchen with a high ceiling. This is to make sure that the rafters are well clear of the fire and also provide a room where all the household can be together at any time of the year.

The villa should have an oven and a mill large enough to provide flour for all the household.

It is best to build the cells of the slaves who are not kept in chains facing south.

For cattle there should be stables which will not be troubled by either heat or cold; for animals broken in for work, two sets of stalls – one for winter, another for summer; and for the other animals which need to be kept within the farming part of the villa there should be places partly covered, partly open to the sky, and surrounded with high walls so that the animals may rest in the one place in winter, in the other in summer, without being attacked by wild beasts. But stables should be roomy and arranged so that no moisture can get in and that whatever is made there may run off very quickly, to prevent the rotting of either the bases of the walls or the hooves of the cattle.

Near both of them should be the store-room in which all the farm tools are kept; inside this there should be a place for locking up the iron tools.

The cells for the shepherds and the oxherds should be close to their animals so that they can easily run out and attend to them. However, they should all live as closely together as possible so that the villicus doesn't have to waste too much time in making the rounds and also so that they can all watch each other and gather information about who works hard and who doesn't.

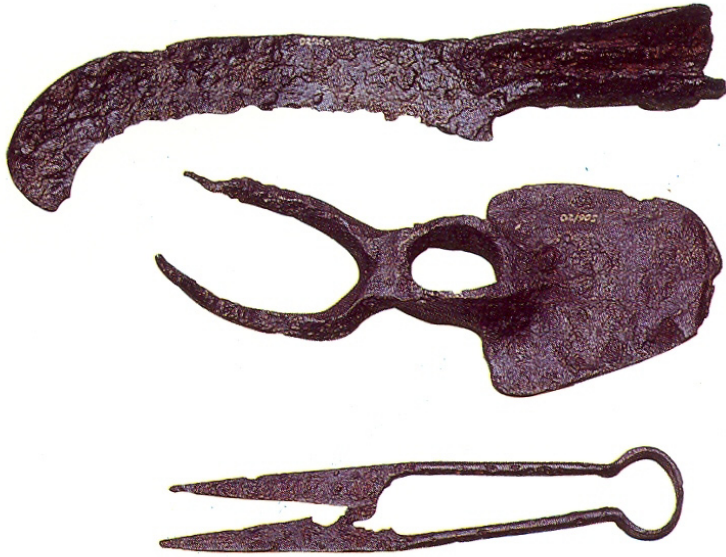
In the storage area of the villa there should be rooms for oil, for presses, for wine, for boiling down must, lofts for hay and chaff, store-rooms and granaries. The ground floor is to be used for liquid products which are to be sold – wine, for example, and oil. Dry goods such as grain, hay, leaves, chaff and other fodder should be stored in lofts. The wine store should be on the ground floor and it should be well away from the baths, the oven, the midden and other filthy places which give off evil smells.

It is all right to store wine above places from which smoke rises since wines mature more quickly in some sorts of smoke.

The press-rooms and the rooms where the oil is stored should be warm. Natural warmth is what is wanted and this depends on the direction in which the room faces. Don't use fires or torches as soot and smoke will spoil the taste of the oil. For this reason the press-rooms should face south.

The cauldron-room in which defrutum is made shouldn't be so narrow and dark as to cramp the slave who is boiling down the must.

There should be a smoke-room in which timber which has been recently cut down can be seasoned quickly. It can be built near the slaves' bathhouse. (It is important that the slaves should have somewhere to go for a bath – but only on feast days for too much bathing isn't good for the health.)



Agricultural implements, Caerwent



Slave chains, Lord's Bridge, Cambridgeshire

Columella, De Re Rustica (adapted)

He (the bailiff) must look after the farm equipment and the tools. He must keep in good repair in the store room all the tools the slaves need. He must organise the slaves' clothing, which should protect them from the wind and the rain. The best clothes are leather tunics with long sleeves or cloaks with hoods. He should be first out of bed in the morning, as it is most important that the slaves begin work at the crack of dawn and get on with it without slacking.



Mosaic showing a slave milking a goat, Daphne, Antioch

Cato, De Agricultura 56-57

Rations for the household: for those who labour, in winter, four modii of wheat, and in summer, four and a half. For the bailiff, the housekeeper, the foreman, and the shepherd, three modii of wheat. For the chain-gang, four pounds of bread in winter, five when they begin to work the vines, then return to four when the figs ripen.



Bronze model of a ploughman, Piercebridge, County Durham



Mosaic showing a hunting dog, found in Carthage, now in the Bardo Museum



Mosaic showing a man and a dog, Daphne, Antioch

Pliny, Natural History XVIII.41-3

Gaius Furius Chresimus was a freedman. He owned a tiny scrap of land, but he always gathered a much bigger harvest than the men who owned the huge farms all around. They turned against him and accused him of stealing everybody else's crops by magic. He was summoned to court by the aedile Spurius Albinus. He thought he was going to lose the case, so before judgement was passed, he brought all his gear from the country into the forum. He brought his slaves – big strong fellows, all well dressed and well fed, his iron tools all beautifully made, his heavy mattocks, his massive ploughs and his fat oxen and he said: 'There's my magic, gentlemen! I'm afraid I can't show you my late nights, early mornings and sweat.' They all declared him innocent.

Roads, travel and trade



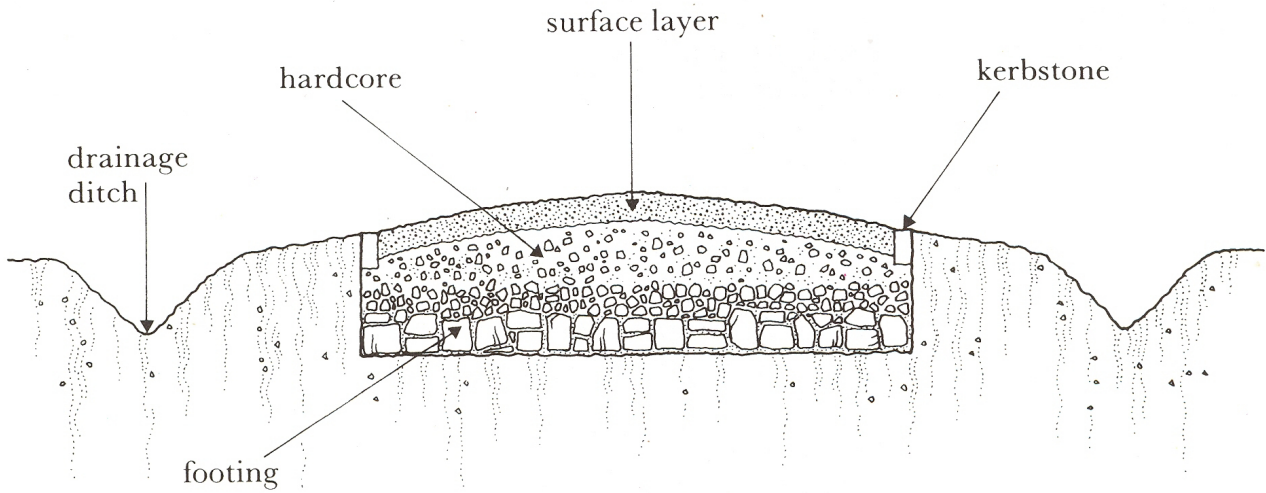
Watling Street West at Church Stretton, Shropshire



Watling Street in Northamptonshire



Milestone, near Llanfairfechan, Conwy



Cross-section of a Roman road



Appian Way, Minturnae, Italy



Roman Road, Vindolanda



Roman Road, Wheeldale Moor



**Roman Road,
Wheeldale Moor**



**Light carriage relief,
Igel, Germany**



**Relief showing
a river boat,
Avignon**



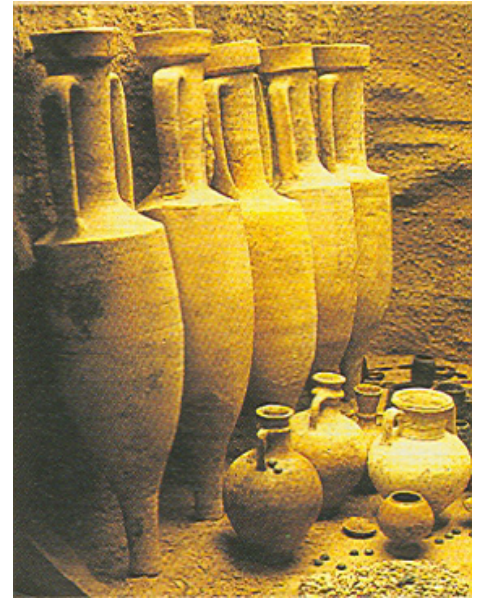
**Relief showing
a tugboat,
tombstone,
Isola Sacra,
Rome**



**Mosaic showing
the loading
of a ship,
Square of the
Corporations,
Ostia**



Replica of a mosaic showing a merchant ship arriving at the harbour at Alexandria, Rome



Amphorae and other goods buried with a wealthy Briton, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, late first century BC

Altar, Domburg, Netherlands (ILS 4751)

To the goddess Nehalennia, on account of goods duly kept safe, Marcus Secund[inius?] Silvanus, trader in pottery with Britain, fulfilled his vow willingly and deservedly.



Relief showing a lead miner, Wirksworth, Derbyshire

Agricola



Statue of Agricola, Roman Baths, Bath

Tacitus, Agricola 19.1 and 4

Agricola however, who was aware of the feelings of the province and at the same time had learnt from the experience of others that too little is gained by fighting, if injustices follow, decided to root out the causes of war.

He eased the levy of corn and the tribute by making the burdens more equal and by cutting off the means of making a profit. These had caused greater resentment than the tax itself.

Tacitus, Agricola 20.1

By stopping these abuses immediately in his first year, Agricola gave peace a fine reputation. This had been feared just as much as war because of the arrogant way in which previous governors had neglected Britain.

Tacitus, Agricola 21

Agricola encouraged individuals and helped local communities to build temples, fora and houses. He praised those who took steps in this direction and criticised those who dragged their feet. In this way he replaced compulsion with a competition for honours. He also arranged for the sons of British chiefs to receive a broad education, and showed that he preferred the talents of the Britons to those of the Gauls. As a result, instead of hating the language of the Romans, they became very keen to learn it, and our style of dress was held in high regard and the toga became fashionable. Step by step they gave in to luxuries that led them astray: porticos, baths and elegant dinner parties. In their ignorance they called it civilisation, when it was really just part of their slavery.

Tacitus, Agricola 18.6

Agricola did not use the success of events to boost his own ego and he didn't call keeping the Britons under control 'waging war' or 'victory'. There were no laurel wreaths to accompany his achievements, but he increased his fame by actually keeping it hidden. Men considered how great his hopes must be for the future when he had kept quiet about such great events.

Tacitus, Agricola 15

Once each tribe had one king, now two are inflicted on us – the governor to take out his anger on our lives, the procurator on our property. The agents of one, his centurions, those of the other, his slaves, combine violence and insults against us. In war the braver men take the spoils, but now it is cowards and weaklings that rob our homes, kidnap our children and conscript our men.

But what a tiny handful of invaders they are, if only we count up our own numbers! The Germans threw off their yoke and they had only a river, not the ocean to protect them. We have our country, our wives and our parents to fight for. The Romans have nothing but greed and extravagance. They will return home, as Julius Caesar returned home, if only we can equal the bravery of our ancestors.

Tacitus, Agricola 30.4-5

From the speech of Calgacus, a British leader, to his troops as they prepared to fight the Romans in Scotland. The entire speech is, in fact, Tacitus' invention.

'The Romans plunder the world; when there are no more lands for them to devastate, they ransack the sea. If their enemy is rich, they are greedy; if poor, they are eager for power. You will find neither east nor west has satisfied them. They are the only people who desire wealth and poverty with equal eagerness. Robbery, slaughter and plunder they falsely call empire and, when they create a desert, they call it peace.'



Lead waterpipe, Roman fortress, Chester (RIB 2.3.2434.1)

Made in the ninth consulship of the emperor Vespasian and in the seventh of Titus, acclaimed imperator, in the governorship of Gnaeus Iulius Agricola.



Antonine Wall distance slab showing a Roman cavalryman and Caledonians