Progress on Data Collection

The response from the Historic Environment Records (HERs) has been overwhelmingly positive, and this has facilitated the rapid collection of data to augment that from the Archaeological Investigations Project (AIP). From these key datasets lists of relevant grey literature reports have been produced for each county. Where digital copies of these reports do not currently exist, PDF/A OCR copies have been made which offer high-quality digital reports with the capacity for internal searching.

Data collection by Cotswold Archaeology commenced in the East of England region, with Essex and Cambridgeshire the first counties completed, and we should have the whole region complete by November 2012. We will also complete the East Midlands region around the same time. Our main focus will then turn to the data-rich London and South-East region, where Kent and Greater London have been completed. We intend to start data collection in the South West region in late summer 2014.

Progress on Data Analysis

The University of Reading Leverhulme team are now six months into the project, with Alex starting in May and Tom and Martyn joining in July. Research aims and data categories were soon set, and the first working database was up and running by July. Since then, the team have been steadily collecting and inputting published excavation data and poring through all the grey literature reports provided by Cotswold Archaeology. Significant areas have now been completed, including Kent, Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Essex and Hertfordshire, with Greater London, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Norfolk all in progress. Cambridgeshire currently wins the prize for being the most prolific county in terms of excavated sites included on the database (180), and we estimate that by the end we will have a...
total of over 3,500 records of Roman rural sites across the country.

The next stage is the most exciting, as we will have completed all the data collection and inputting for the East of England region by January 2013, and can then commence analysis. We will use the GIS to explore the dataset and start to address many of the research aims, and hopefully begin to revolutionize our understanding of Romano-British rural settlement.

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**Romano-British Towns Project**

This module is funded by English Heritage and is being led by Michael Fulford and Neil Holbrook. Its purpose is to make an assessment of the contribution of commercial archaeology to the study of Romano-British towns. This will be achieved by case studies and review of published outputs; consideration of the grey literature lies outside of our current scope. The project has two principal outputs: a one-day conference at the University of Reading on 30 November 2013, and a published volume of conference papers.

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**Events**

**Saturday 16 March 2013.**

Roman Rural Settlement: East of England Regional Seminar. McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge

**June 2013 date TBC.**


*Attendance at the regional seminars will be by invitation only. If you are interested in attending please contact Nathan Blick.*

**Saturday 30 November 2013.**

Assessing the Contribution of Commercial Archaeology on the Towns of Roman Britain. Day conference at the University of Reading in conjunction with the Roman Society. Further details and booking forms will be available in spring 2013.

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