CHURCH MEADOW 2012-2014 UPDATE

Examples of Roman coins from CME

SF577

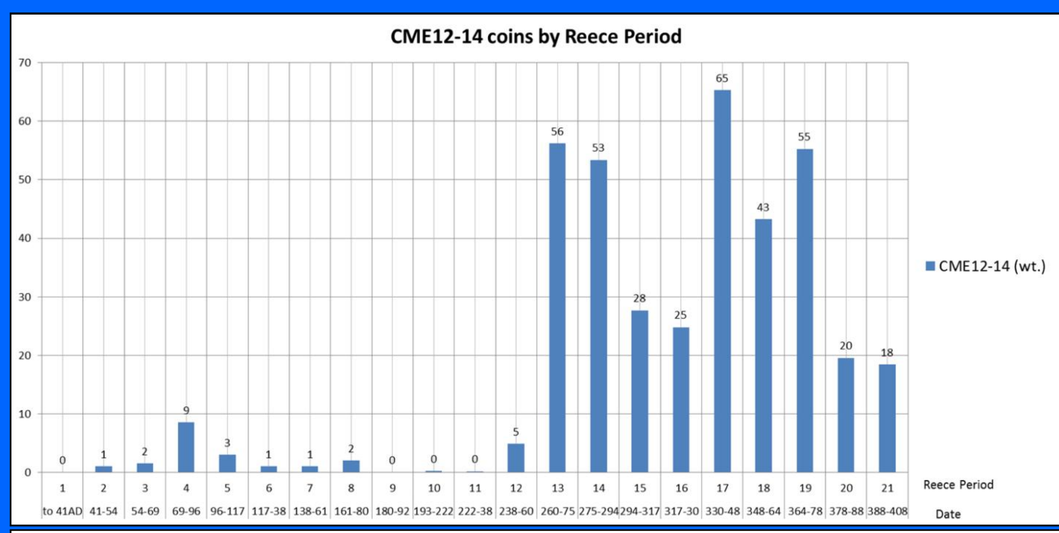
AE Centenionalis of Constantius II, 324- 361
Struck during the revolt against Magnentius in 353
Obv: DN CONSTANTIVS PF AVG
Diademed draped bust right
Rev: SALVS AVG NOSTRI
Large christogram flanked by Alpha and Omega

SF04

An AE4 of the 4/5th century, fractionalised
Obv: Diademed bust right
Rev: GLORIA EXERCITVS, fallen horseman type
Coins were fractionalised (cut into halves or other proportions) in this way to create lower denominations

SF07

An antoninianus of Gallienus, 253–68
Obv: IMP GALLIENVS AVG, radiate bust
Rev: APOLLINI CONS AVG, griffin standing L, L in exergue for mint of London
This is an official issue, not a copy



593 Roman coins were found over the three seasons of CME excavation, their retrieval due much to the expertise of our three metal detectorists Mairi Sargent, Dave Williams and Bill Meads. The coins have been identified by numismatist Norman Clarkson and statistics are now being at by Professor Clive Orton.

Looking at the coin distribution by Reece period one can see the weighting towards greater coin loss/ deposition from the mid 3rd century onwards. Having compared the CME assemblage to Reece's national dataset, it was seen that they did not match nor did it match the 'Eastern' dataset. Interestingly the closest match was to the villa subset. This does not mean there is a villa nearby only that there is a villa-like chronological distribution of coins. This is in part due to the high proportion of late -4th-century coins at CME; higher than at Reece's 'Eastern settlements' but similar to Reece's 'Villas'. This may reflect a greater continuation of economic activity here, but it may be due to the number of coins attributed simply to the 4th century here, which by the aoristic method become distributed across the whole of that century.

SF44

An AE3 of Constantine I as Augustus, 307–37
Obv: CONSTANTINVS AVG
Laureate and draped bust right
Rev: Victory with trophy and palm advancing L over captive (Sarmatia Devicta type), STR in exergue for second mint of Trier

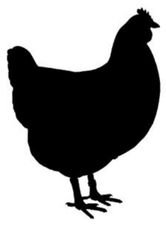
SF 20

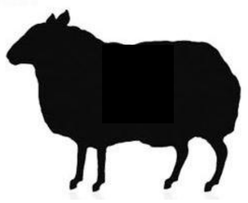
A silver denarius of Vespasian, 69–79
Obv: CAES VESPASIANVS AVG, laureate head right
Rev: Judea seated with back to trophy of arms (the Judaea Capta type), IVDEA in exergue

SF46

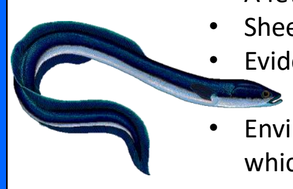
An AE3 of the House of Constantine, 307–61
Obv: CONSTAN [] PF AVG
Rev: Labarum between two soldiers (Gloria Exercitus type)

Bones





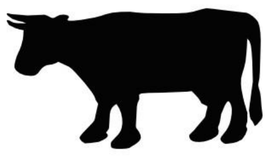
- 17 boxes of bone over 3 seasons
- 5,012 specimens – 37% identifiable
- The assemblage is dominated by the remains of cattle and sheep/goat with pig relatively scarce.
- Minor domestic animals - horse, dog and galliform [ground feeding birds such as chickens] - are present in relatively small numbers.
- A few bones belong to wild animals including deer.
- Sheep/goat outnumber cattle in all categories of material
- Evidence for butchery, burning and gnawing



- Environmental sampling - a significant number of fish bones most of which belong to common eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)

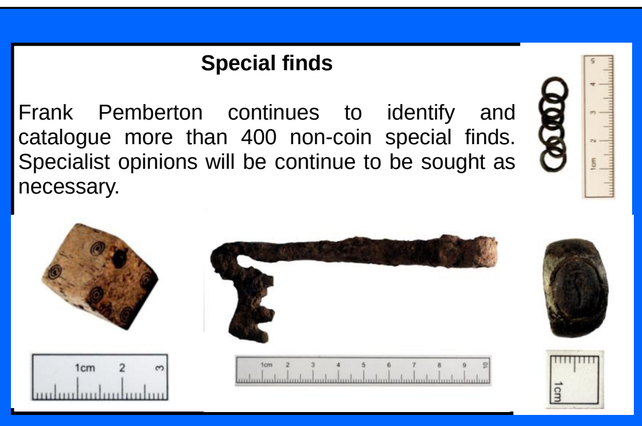
Further work to be done

- Sexing and ageing of bones and teeth
- Butchery practices
- Comparison with bone from other excavations in and adjacent to Church Meadow



Special finds

Frank Pemberton continues to identify and catalogue more than 400 non-coin special finds. Specialist opinions will be continue to be sought as necessary.



Wider Ewell - excavations in 2015

The animal husbandry area at NESCOT has been the focus of a large archaeological excavation in advance of building of a 150 bedded nursing home and 90 houses. It was carried out by Pre-construct Archaeology directed by Alexis Haslam, and revealed evidence for human activity in the Mesolithic, Late Neolithic/Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age and Roman periods. Large chalk pits from the Roman and possibly LBA/EIA were found, together with articulated and disarticulated adult and neonatal human bone.

Ritual deposition in ritual shafts on this site ties in with similar activity known at Hatch Furlong, Church Meadow and North Looe, and seems to be a practice that was evident from the Late Iron Age in the area.

Flint identification

The worked flint from CME was initially catalogued thanks to the SyAS' flint group. Jon Cotton has now begun work identifying the flint and so far the special finds and flint from CME2 have been completed.

The presence of worked flint in Church Meadow from the Mesolithic period onwards reinforces the evidence of human activity around the springs of Ewell, the source of the Hogsmill river.

End/side convex scraper
(broken)

Semi-translucent grey-brown veined flint

[133A] SF 419

Triangular transverse arrowhead

Retouching present
Late Neolithic

Backfill of amphora pit Area D SF 989

Mircolith blade tip

Narrow broken blade- straight-backed

Late Mesolithic

[133A] SF 609

Flint blade with marginal damage/ wear on both edges

Most of blade present

[105R] SF 814

Plunging blade from a two-platform core

Semi-translucent grey=brown flint
Mesolithic

[101 machining]

Blade segment

size and shape for a transverse arrowhead but no retouching present

Semi-translucent grey-brown flint

[153A] SF 499

Quern Report

Ruth Shaffrey, University of Reading, is currently examining and reporting on the quern from Church Meadow. The presence of remnants of various querns together with evidence for grains suggest grain processing in this part of the settlement.

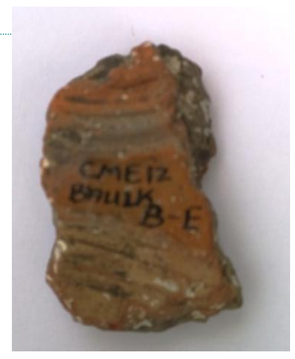
Querns within the wider context of Ewell

One of the project's objectives is to tie in evidence from Church Meadow with that from the wider settlement. To this end grants have been approved by Surrey Archaeological Society and Bourne Hall Museum to examine all the known Roman quern from Ewell and associated farmsteads. These include examples from Purberry Shot, North Looe, King William IV site, Spring House, Grove Cottage and Ewell Churchyard An example of an Iron Age quern from Warren Farm has been included for comparison. Results will be published as part of the CME excavation report.

CHURCH MEADOW 2012-2014 UPDATE

Year	Bag	SF No.	Context	Initial description	No. sherds	Wt-g	Jon Cotton identification	Date	Actions
CME12	1		Baulk	? IA pot shell tempered , linear indentations	1	7	shell-tempered with combed decoration	LIA/ERB	
CME12	2		101A	? Prehistoric pot-shell temp on surface	1	15	shell on surface and fabric, voids on surface	IA or Saxon	SN/LR to see
CME12	3		101A	? Prehistoric pot	1	15	quartz temper	IA or Saxon	SN/LR to see
CME12	4		105C	? Prehistoric pot - flint tempered	1	7	angular crushed burnt flint and ferruginous pellets	LBA/EIA ?	
CME12	5		105E	? Prehistoric pot - calcine flint tempered	1	38	angular crushed burnt flint , ill-sorted up to 3-4mm	LBA/EIA ?	
CME12	6		105E	? Prehistoric pot - calcine flint tempered	1	6	crushed burnt flint, more mixed-type temper, less homogenous	LBA/EIA ? More likely the latter	
CME13	7		105F	unusual shape - any ideas?	1	18	possible coin mould	?RB	specialist advice
CME13	18		105				grog- smooth polished surface	LIA/ERB	
CME13	8		105H	shell tempered ? Prehistoric/ ?NKS	3	35	NKS- coming up to shoulder.Conjoined. A complete example in Purbery Shot archive	RB 0-100AD	
CME12	9		113	? Prehistoric pot	1	6	Grog - black painted jar, as North Looe and Walton on the Hill	0-60AD	
CME12	10		115	? Prehistoric pot	1	1	heavy sand temper [rounded grains], shoulder of jar	M-LIA or more likely RB	
CME12	11		123E	? Prehistoric pot, calcine flint tempered	2	17	base and lower body sherd calcine flint, abraded	LBA/EIA ?	
CME12	12		123E	? Prehistoric pot	2	10	grog tempered - North Looe type	LIA/ERB	
CME12	13		133A	? Prehistoric pot, calcine flint tempered	1	5	angular, crushed burnt flint	LBA/EIA	
CME12	14		133A	? Prehistoric pot, incised post-firing	1	5	grog, ? Grafitto, ? Londoware copy of samian	Roman	
CME12	15	248	133A	? Prehistoric pot , calcine flint tempered	3	15	2 sherds angular calcined flint temper 1 sherd more mixed temper 'floor sweepings' with organic burnt-on residue	LBA/EIA LBA/more likely EIA	
CME13	16	418	133A	? Prehistoric/RB pot, shell tempered	2	21	crushed burnt flint, smooth surfaces - conjoined	? RB	
CME12	17		153	Neolithic grooved ware Durrington Walls	2	37	decoration fresh - has not moved far	3000-2000BC	

Examples of Prehistoric Pottery fabrics found in Church Meadow



Shell tempered body sherd

Comb decoration
Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British

[Baulk B-E Bag No 1.

Grog tempered body sherds

North Looe type

Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British

[123E] Bag No. 12

2 body sherds

Upper- angular calcined flint temper

Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age

Lower- more mixed 'floor sweeping' with organic burnt-on residue

More likely EIA than LBA

[133A] Bag No.15
[105R] SF 814

Sherd of Late Neolithic Durrington Walls type pottery

Late Neolithic, 3000-2000 BC

[153A] Bag 17

Environmental Samples CME13-14

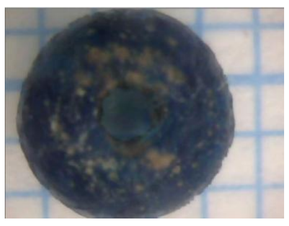
30 samples were collected from 17 contexts over two seasons, and were put through a flotation tank on site. Processing started at SCAU in Woking, where residue was sieved into 10mm, 4mm and 2mm samples, and work started picking out ecofacts and artefacts. Processing then moved to Glyn Hall. It is hoped that identification of the ecofacts might be undertaken by students from the University of Reading.

Bone from the samples has been examined by Claire Ingrem, bone specialist, as part of the wider bone report. Although only 6% of the 7,540 specimens of sieved bone is identifiable it has enabled us to retrieve small bones that would be missed during excavation. These include a significant number of fish bones from a Roman context, most of which belong to the common eel (*Anguilla anguilla*). A considerable number of small mammal (mostly rodent) and amphibian bones also came from these features and probably represent natural fatalities.

A number of grains have been retrieved which, when identified, will show what cereals were being utilised in the Roman settlement, and perhaps grown locally.

Numerous single-spiral water snail shells were retrieved from the upper fills of the ritual shaft, suggesting they may have been waterlogged at some stage.

Artefacts retrieved include pottery, CBM, a bone pin, two tiny blue glass beads, a limestone bead and an echinoid.

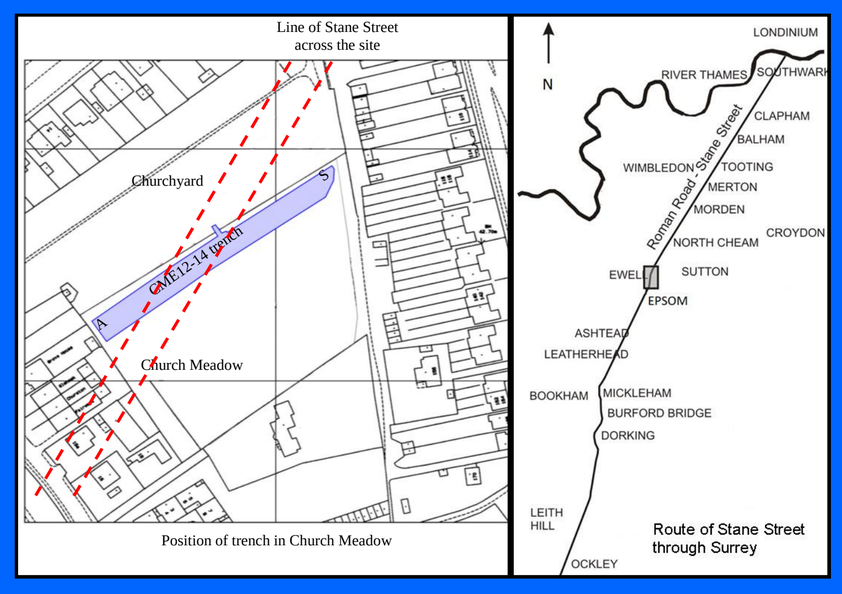


Right - A blue glass bead less than 4mm in diameter

Background on the Church Meadow Excavations 2012-2014

The three seasons of excavation in Church Meadow, Ewell revealed a series of ditches, gullies, flint and chalk surfaces, industrial and rubbish pits, and wells, giving us a glimpse of life alongside Stane Street in the 1-4th century AD. Unfortunately any above Roman ground level archaeology was likely destroyed by an episode of steam ploughing in the 19th century, but the wide ranging date of Roman finds suggest longstanding Romano-British occupation. In 2012 two sherds of late Neolithic pottery were found together with a small number of worked flint. Interestingly, although Church Meadow was once a Medieval furlong very few finds of that period or later have been retrieved.

No evidence for the agger of Stane Street, which had been identified in previous excavations further up the field, was found but a corridor devoid of archaeological features, flanked by ditches that had been recut a number of times is thought to be all that remains of its route. It is likely that the road was



Position of trench in Church Meadow

Prehistoric Pottery from CME

Late Neolithic Pottery Durrington- Walls style 3000-2000BC

Two sherds of this pottery was found in Area A in 2012. The decoration is unabraded and the sherds are not likely to have moved far.

Example of a Durrington Walls Grooved Ware pot © EH

Grooved Ware Pottery

The later Neolithic period saw the emergence of Grooved Ware pottery, a distinctive style marked by its characteristic flat bases and profuse grooved decoration with a wide geographical distribution within Britain and Ireland. This pottery type comprises three main styles: Durrington Walls, Woodlands and Clacton styles. It is often associated with henge monuments, pit groups or passage graves and is sometimes accompanied by unusual or complex deposits.

Flint and shell were the dominant inclusions in the pottery traditions of the early-mid Neolithic, but this changes with the emergence of Grooved Ware, with its abundant grog and shell inclusions and much smoother surface compared to the earlier grittier fabrics.

Grooved Ware appears to have both a practical and symbolic function, having a role in the preparation and consumption of food and in the depositional process

Description of Durrington Walls style pottery

Large bucket or barrel shaped vessels with incised or grooved decoration, concentric circles and spirals and plain and decorated cordons. The vessels were much larger than those from earlier traditions, with a capacity of 3-5,000 cubic cm [rather than the earlier 2,000 cubic cm]. This gives rise to the concept of communal feasting in henge monuments where they are often found.

Different clays may have been used in an attempt to produce contrasting colours as seen in the Durrington Walls vessel from Yarnton which has slightly contrasting coloured cordons compared to the main body of the vessel.

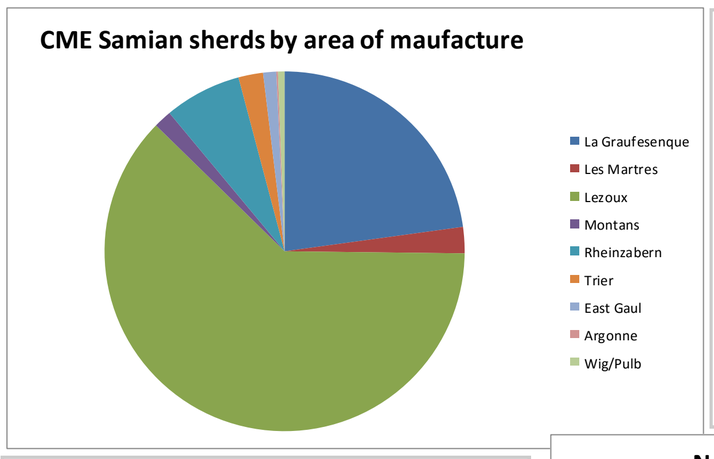
[Botfield: 2012]

Post-excavation work continues

Volunteers continue to meet weekly at Glyn Hall in Ewell Village, supported by a grant from CBA. The pottery cataloguing from CME13 is virtually completed, leaving just 11 boxes from the final season to be done!

The sorting of the 10mm and 4mm sieved environmental samples has also been done at Glyn Hall; the group has alsodone the initial recording on the metal finds, followed by wrapping them in acid-free tissue paper, and are about to start cataloguing the ceramic building material. The same forms as used by AARG will be adopted to ensure conformity of recording.

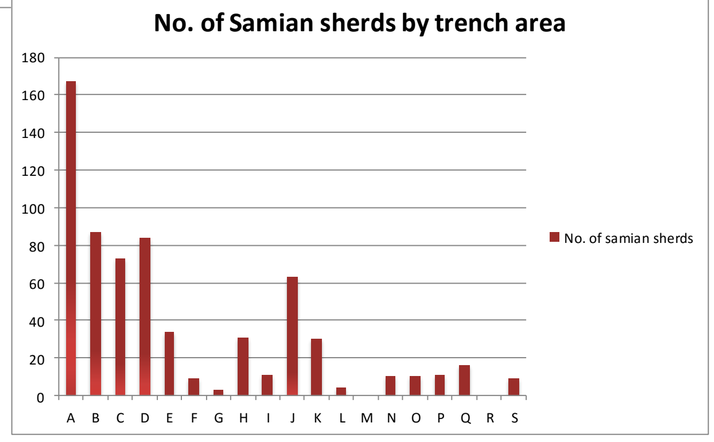
SPOTLIGHT ON CHURCH MEADOW SAMIAN



Analysis of Samian

679 sherds had been identified as to fabric, and form where possible. The pie chart to the left shows the prominence of Central (Lezoux and Les Martres-de-Veyre) and South Gaulish (La Graufesenque) samian. However there is a surprisingly wide range of samian fabrics in Ewell including 11 from Montans, 1 from Argonne and 4 from the Wiggonholt/Pulborough industry. Although a relatively small roadside settlement its residents benefitted from trade up and down Stane Street. J. Bird suggests that the Montans especially would have been shipped from a port in western France, imported somewhere along the the Solent and transported up Stane Street. This would also explain the Wiggonholt/Pulborough wares, too.

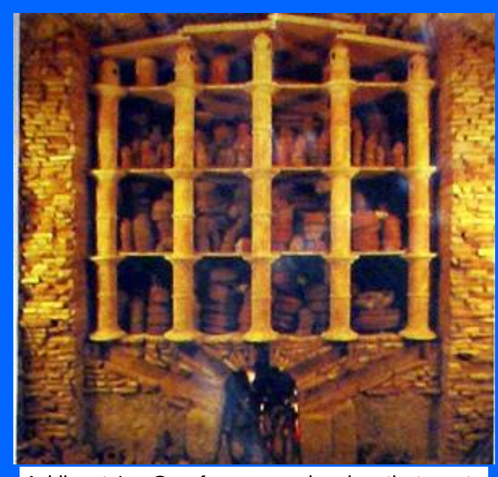
The graph on the right shows the distribution of samian along the 115 x 10m trench. Samian is more prevalent in Areas A- E which relate to settlement on the western side of Stane Street. This is towards the bottom of a slope so some may have been re-deposited in hillwash from higher ground.
Areas F-I represent the line of Stane Street and it is interesting to see 31 sherds in H which has also produced a greater volume of Roman pottery than the areas either side.
On the eastern side of the road there is more samian in J and K than further north-east, and away from the road. Although the ritual shaft is in Area J only 12 of the 63 sherds in J come from the shaft fills. Areas N-S seem to have an industrial focus so it is perhaps not surprising that samian is less common.



The Manufacture of Samian ware

Samian can be divided into plain and decorated forms:.
Plain wares - appear to be wheel thrown . Once the basic vessel is made a footring is added if necessary, together with decorative details, some in barbotine (like trailed leaves and even figures). Other vessels have impressed designs made by roulette wheels, while a few forms have strap handles. Once decorated they are allowed to dry before being dipped in a slip which appears to have been made from a refined version of the body clay, thus ensuring a good thermal match for the firing process. Only a relatively small number of plain forms were current a and an even smaller number which were particularly popular.

Decorated wares - the more elaborately decorated vessels were mould-made. A basic mould shape was produced then decorative designs impressed on the interior while the clay was still plastic. The mould was then pegged to the wheel, the clay thrown within it, raising the vessel and pressing into the moulded detail at the same time.
The vessel would be left to dry in the mould where it would shrink sufficiently enabling it to be removed. The footring would be added and finished together with the rim, It would then go through the same drying, dipping and firing process in the same way as plain ware.
(Webster)



A kiln at La Graufesenque showing that up to 40,000 pots could be fired in one batch

Samian fabrics found in Church Meadow

Aldgate-Pulborough Samian

Samian manufactured at **Pulborough** (Sussex/GB), and perhaps also at London during early-mid 2nd century AD, with limited distribution in south-east England.

Central Gaulish Samian

Samian manufacture commenced in Central Gaul from the Augustan period and during the 1st century AD the distinctive micaceous products of Lezoux are distributed across central and western Gaul, and occasionally to southern Britain. The height of the industry was during the 2nd century AD. when the products of **Les Martres-de-Veyre** and **Lezoux** (Puy-de-Dôme/FR) had a wide distribution across Gaul, Germany, Britain and the Danube provinces.

East Gaulish Samian

Samian kiln sites were founded in eastern Gaul from the mid-1st century AD, but production for a wider market is only significant during the 2nd and early-mid 3rd centuries AD. There is evidence from the study of stamps and moulds for the movement of potters between production centres, and craftsmen from Sinzig and **Trier** (Rheinland-Pfalz/DE) were probably responsible for the small Colchester (Essex/GB) Samian industry during the mid-late 2nd century AD. Sites also include **Rheinzabern, Argonne** and **La Madeleine.**

South Gaulish (La Graufesenque) Samian

Samian was manufactured at **La Graufesenque** (nr Millau, Aveyron/FR) from the Augustan period and the products achieved a wide distribution during the Tiberio-Claudian period. The height of the industry is reached during the mid-late 1st century AD, when the distribution covers most of the western Empire, the Mediterranean littoral, and beyond.

South Gaulish (Montans) Samian

Samian produced at **Montans** (Tarn/FR) and distributed across western Gaul, northern Spain and Britain during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

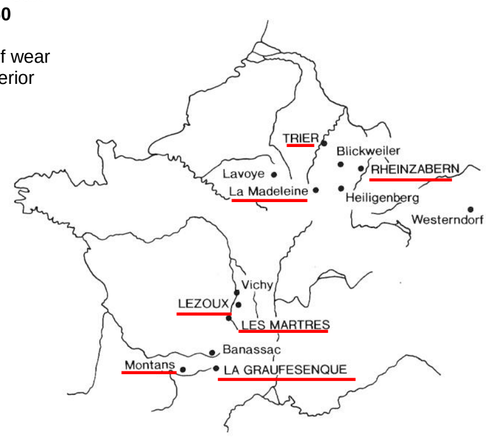
www.potsherd.net

Examples of CME Samian from major Samian production areas

Drag 27, base stamped DIVICI.M. Die 1b, Divicus of **Lezoux** ***c*AD 125-160**

There are signs of wear on the lower interior

Samian Cup, Drag 27
***c*AD 110-150**
stamped FE[LICIO] , Felicio iv of **Montans**



Samian manufacturing areas (Webster)
Sites underlined in red provided samian found in Ewell

Dish, Drag 36
La Graufesenque, ***c*AD 70-100**. Repaired with lead wire through a drilled hole; a black substance present at the rim on both broken edges is probably a glue used to support the repair

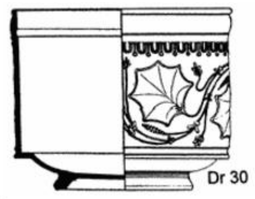
Drag 31 base, **Rheinzabern** ***c*AD 135-180**
The underside of the base is worn round the edge, with a graffito of five lines arranged in a fan shape radiating from the centre

Drag.30 bowl from Lezoux
***c*AD 145-175**

The detail of the decoration is very crisp suggesting that this was one of the first bowls to be cast from the mould. The panel design shows a cupid carrying two torches above a scarf-dancer ; a veiled woman above a head of Pan; Diana with crescent-shaped head-dress driving the chariot of the moon, the lower panel missing; and a pigeon above a dancer with a tambourine .

The same Diana, the tambourine-player, the corded motif on the upper border and the crown-like motif that marks the junctions of the beaded borders are all on bowls attributed to the rare anonymous potter P-20 .The ovolo, B105, is not recorded for him but was regularly used by Albucius ii, whose links with P-20 have been noted , and Albucius also used the full-size version of the cupid, the veiled woman, the head of Pan and probably the pigeon. The use of an astragalus impressed across the vertical border is not so far noted for either potter.

Rubbing of the conjoining sherds



Workers, workshops and stamps

Many samian forms have the name of the workshop and the potters impressed on them. On plain vessels these marks usually appear on the basal interior as a central mark. On decorated vessels there is scope to include a name amongst the decoration.

Stamps appear to have served two main functions:
1: To help with quality control, and to distinguish the work of various potters/ workshops when work from various producers are fired in common.
2. Some stamps on decorated vessels are clearly advertisements and are distinguishable by their greater size, elaboration and legibility.
(Webster)

Amongst the stamps found at Ewell are:

101B **PIIR[PIITVSFII]** Die 2b, Perpetus ii of Rheinzabern *c*AD 230-275
101C **OF.[** La Graufesenque cAD 60-90
102D **CIƁIVΛΛF** Die 1b, Ciriuna Rheinzabern. *c*AD 135-180
105A **CARATIL[LI]** Die 2a, Caratillus i of Lezoux, *c*AD 140-165
MICCI.VSF Die 1a, Miccius of Lezoux. cAD.160-170
105B **MVXTV[LLIM]** Muxtullus of Lezoux. *c*AD 140-175
129 C **OF[VERIAN]** - Verianus of Wiggonholt/Pulborough, *c*AD 120-140
134A **FE[LICIO]** Felicio iv of Montans. *c*AD 110-150
197J **MA[RCELLINIF]** Die 2a, Marcellinus ii of Lezoux, *c*AD 175-200
226A **DIVICI.M.** Die 1b, Divicus of Lezoux, *c*AD 125-160
270K **OSI·RV** Die 8a', Cosius Rufinus of La Graufesenque *c* AD 70-90