



A Guide and Trail to Silchester's Environment & History

*Exploring Silchester Common and the
Roman Wall*

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A Guide and Trail to Silchester's Environment and History

Exploring Silchester Common
and the Roman Wall

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INTRODUCTION

How to use this Guide

These trails with the accompanying guide are designed for anyone with an interest in their surrounding landscape. They are designed as educational tools, as they explore the themes of the trails in depth. They are easy to use and are laid out in an easily manageable way. To enable learning some words are highlighted and explanations of them are given in the glossary at the end of the guide. Boxes offering key information are framed in red, and have been made separate from



The south section of wall

the other information so you can choose to not read them, although for a better understating of the sites it is not advised to do so. To increase the interactivity of the guide questions have been posed along the trails to encourage reflectivity and independent thought. In order to allow the trail to progress in information, the answers to the questions are displayed within the text further along the trails, this gives the trails a more holistic approach allowing you to have a more enjoyable experience. The trail instructions have been made clear from other text and are italicised, so if the you choose then you can just follow the trials without reading the supporting information.



Bell Heather

The Trails

This guide is made up of two trails, one exploring Silchester Common and the other the Roman wall site. They both offer valuable experiences and It is encouraged that you do both, but not on the same day as the Roman wall site needs at least half a day to explore it properly. Silchester Common will need approximately one hour and a half.

INTRODUCTION

The Theme of the Trails

Management and conservation are the themes that will be explored by both trails, as they are ideal locations to examine the causes and affects of both factors. These themes are key issues at the present, as the need for effective protection and preservation of our landscapes and ecosystems for the use of future generations is ever increasing. Without practices such as conservation and management it is unlikely that these landscapes would survive far into the future. This will be highlighted by the Silchester Common trail, as effective management is crucial to its existence. The Roman wall trail will highlight the importance of conservation for the preservation of the site. The aims will be stated at the beginning of the trails.



The south gate

School Groups

Although this trail is not designed for school groups, primary and secondary school teachers could potentially adapt the trails to enable them for use as study guides. The list of references at the back of the guide will also be a useful source of information.

Overall this booklet can be viewed as a guided walk, a landscape companion, a reference guide, a souvenir or just as a trail!



The Common in winter

MAPS AND DIRECTIONS

Getting to Silchester

From M4 Junction 11: Head west on exit 11 and at the roundabout take the 1st exit onto A33. At the second roundabout take the 3rd exit onto Mareoak Lane and continue on Bloomfield Hatch Lane. Turn right at Cross Lane and continue onto The Street. Turn left at Church Road and continue past the Red Lion PH and a sharp right bend opposite Wall Lane. Finally turn left onto Little London Road and arrive in Silchester.

From M3 Junction 6: Take the A33/A339 exit to Basingstoke. At the roundabout take the 1st exit towards A33.A339. At the next roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the A339 and then take the A340 exit. At the roundabout, take the 4th exit onto A430/ Aldermaston Road. Turn right at Bramley Road and then turn left at Silchester Road. Continue on Little London Road, Past the Plough Ph on the left and enter Silchester.

For Satellite Navigation Systems: the **GRID REFERENCE** for Silchester is: **SU627620**



MAPS AND DIRECTIONS

Trail 1 - Where to Start & Trail Map

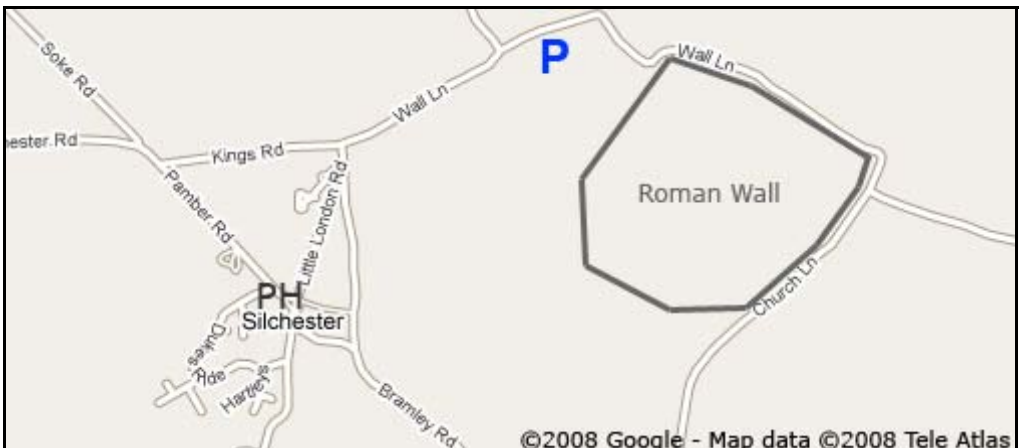
For the School car park turn off Pamber Road next to the Park and Playing Fields. Grid Reference: **SU626623**

For the Pub car park turn off Little London Road between Whistlers Lane and Holly Lane. Grid Reference: **SU626620**



Trail 2 - Where to Start

To get to Wall Lane car park from the Pub, drive down Little London Road, along side the playing fields. At the end of the road turn right, and then right again at the sharp bend. Finally turn right after approximately 100 meters into the car park. Grid Reference: **SU634627**



TRAIL 1 - Silchester Common

About the Common

Silchester Common is part of some of the last remaining internationally endangered habitats left in Britain; heathland. Silchester Common is an important site as it is within the last 2% of remaining heathland habitats left in Hampshire. Since the end of the 18th century 98% of this area has been lost (SPC, 2007). In 1952 Silchester Common was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (**SSSI**) as its richness in flora and fauna was recognised, covering an area of 56 Ha (VDS, 2007).

Instructions

Parking – You can either park at the playing field car park, or at the Calleva arms car park;

1. From the playing field car park, walk out of the car park and turn left down the road towards the pub, then turn immediately right into Dukes Ride.

Or,

2. From the Calleva Arms car park, turn left outside the pub, and cross the road leading towards Dukes Ride.

3. Take the footpath, just left of the 'Dukes Ride' sign.

4. When you come to an opening, continue across, keeping to the footpath.

Along the footpath (before you reach the Common), to your left you should see areas of vegetation that were once characterised by heather and low-lying heathland plants that have reverted back to scrubland. These areas are dominated by gorse bushes and small trees. These areas have been left without any **management**, and thus are entering late stages of **succession**. The importance of the management of the Common is the main theme of this guide, and your understanding of this theme will be developed as you walk the trail. Questions will be posed to develop your understanding.



Why do you think scrubland grows when the vegetation is not managed?

How do you think that the heath is managed?

5. Follow the footpath through a gate onto the Common.

Here on the edge of the Common, take a look at the landscape around you, what are your first impressions?

TRAIL 1 - Silchester Common

Background Information

British heathlands are part of the 'western Atlantic alliance' that is distributed along Europe from Germany, south to Portugal and north to Norway (Farrell, 1993). Lowland British heathlands are mainly concentrated in southern England through Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey, Suffolk and Norfolk. Heathlands have been a part of Britain since the end of the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago (Farrell, 1993).

As you can see from looking around you, the vegetation areas here on the edge of the Common may be quite low as this area is regularly managed. These edge areas are often cleared, but if the vegetation is in fact quite high, you will see other examples along this trail of cleared vegetation.

Why do you think the vegetation is cleared?



Area of heath recently cleared



A gorse bud in the winter

6. Carry on along the footpath that is straight on, walking the length of the Common and eventually you will reach a fence on the edge of the Common.

As you are walking along the footpath and looking at your surroundings, read the information boxes and consider these questions;

How do you think British heaths were created? Do you think they are natural habitats or unnatural?

While you walk along the Common look at all the life around you, whatever the season you will see a variety of plant and animal species. Heathland habitats are rich in species communities and to learn more about the ecology of this habitat read the following information boxes.

TRAIL 1 - Silchester Common

The Ecology of Silchester Common

Silchester Common is a dry heathland that is dominated by Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*) and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) (VDS, 2007). Many rare species are found on Silchester Common and within north-east Hampshire 30% of the plant species are rare, which include the Marsh Violet and the Heath spotted-orchid (Crawley, 2005). There is a diverse insect population within Silchester Common with over 200 butterflies species (VDS, 2007). Animal species are also well represented with over 100 bird species recorded in the area (VDS, 2007). These include Nationally Scarce Species, and three particularly scarce species include the Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler. The woodlarks are especially endangered with just 1500 breeding pairs in the UK (VDS, 2007).



Spider found on the Common

Before reading the next sections, consider these questions:

Why do you think that Silchester Common and associated heathlands have so many rare species?

Do you think that left unmanaged, the heathland would still sustain the same amount of species?

The high number of rarities found on Silchester Common has highlighted it as a priority area for conservation management. Without conservation efforts, many species would disappear from the Common, as specific stages of succession need to be maintained to sustain increased **species diversity**.

The following pages will now develop on the idea of management and conservation, and will answer the questions that have been posed.



Bell heather (Erica Cinerea)

TRAIL 1 - Silchester Common

7. Once you have reached the fence you can either take a left to visit Pamber Forest, or you can continue back through the Common taking the path on your right which will lead you to a different footpath, taking you back in the same direction you came.

While at the end of the footpath, take some time to reflect on the questions that have been previously asked and contemplate on what you think may happen to heathland habitats if they were left unmanaged.

Then while you walk back along the footpath, read the following information boxes.



The Common has 4 of the 6 native reptiles, including the Adder



Bell - heather

Creation of British Heathlands

British Heathlands are not completely natural habitats, but were mainly created by humans starting during the Mesolithic period at the end of the last ice age 10,000 years ago (Farrell, 1993). Heathland results from forest clearance, which followed by grazing and cutting of scrub prevents it developing back into forest. Then during the middle ages heathlands were maintained with the introduction of the commoning system where local people grazed livestock, extracted wood and other materials from the common which meant that wildlife could thrive in open, sunny conditions (Edgar, 1992). However in Silchester the commoning system ceased and inactivity meant that the heath started to revert back to scrub (SPC, 2007).



8. As you are walking along the footpath back towards Silchester village, have a look at the heath around you and see if you notice areas of vegetation in different stages of succession: i.e. areas that are dominated by heather and low-lying vegetation or areas dominated by gorse bushes and trees.

TRAIL 1 - Silchester Common

What is Succession, and why is Management Important?

Succession is a natural change in the structure of a community composition through time (Raven, 2005). This means that even with a stable climate, communities change from being simple to complex, for example an empty car park that slowly becomes occupied by increasing numbers of plants (Raven, 2005). Succession starts from two types; primary succession which occurs on bare, uncolonised ground and secondary succession that occurs on ground that has been disturbed, which both if left undisturbed continue into a stable mature state sometimes known as a 'climax community' (Reiss, 2002). Heathland habitats are described as a plagioclimax, which means that the ecosystem is prevented from reaching its climax community by the activity of humans (Reiss, 2002). Thus, it is management practices that prevent the heath vegetation from being colonised and dominated by gorse and trees. If the habitat was not managed then the heathland would reach its climax community of a woodland, and the characteristic species of heathlands would be lost.



A gorse bud

9. You should have by now reached the end of the path. Take some time to read and reflect on the following information boxes which will explain the management methods of Silchester Common.

The Management and Conservation of Silchester Common

In 1970 it was realised that steps needed to be taken to control the Common to prevent the habitat being lost for good. The period of inactivity on the Common meant that succession had progressed with the encroachment of birch, bracken and gorse. A management committee was then set up, and over the years conservation techniques have been improved (SPC, 2007). In the 1980's to 1990 uncontrolled heath fires were the main method of management, but the damage caused by this method was later realised as it encourages fire resistant species such as birch and bracken to invade creating thick scrub. Since 1992 stump treatment and bracken spraying replaced the fires, and in 1995 the Common was fenced and a grazing scheme was put into place (SPC, 2007).

TRAIL 1 - Silchester Common

Management Continued

Grazing is the most important method of management on the Common, as it is the most natural process and differences in grazing pressures creates a wide spectrum of habitat types (VDS, 2007). In 2001 a herd of some of the worlds most smallest species of cows was introduced to the Common. The species are Dexters, and their small size reduces the damage to fragile areas. Grazing on the Common is beneficial as it removes flammable materials and the movement of livestock creates new **micro-habitats** which increases diversity (SPC, 2007).



Dexter cows are the best form of management

Overall management prevents the successional stage of woodland developing, maintaining a high species diversity of heath vegetation. Heathlands support a large variety of species, including rare ones because the habitat is non-uniform and creates mosaic vegetation patterns (Farrell, 1993). Larger areas of heathlands generally have areas that are in different stages of succession, in which many different species can thrive depending on their ecological preferences. Because heathlands are internationally endangered, species that primary habitats are heaths are becoming increasingly rarer, for example the Dartford Warbler.

Therefore active management is a very important factor of heathlands. Without it, heathlands as we know them today probably would disappear.

The aim of this trail was to educate anyone with an interest in the landscape around them on the importance of effective management practices, and to give a better understanding on how the landscape around them has evolved. If you want to continue learning more about this habitat and Silchester in particular then refer to the reading list at the end of the guide.

“We have an asset of considerable value on our doorsteps which we must look after or we will lose it” (SPC, 2007).

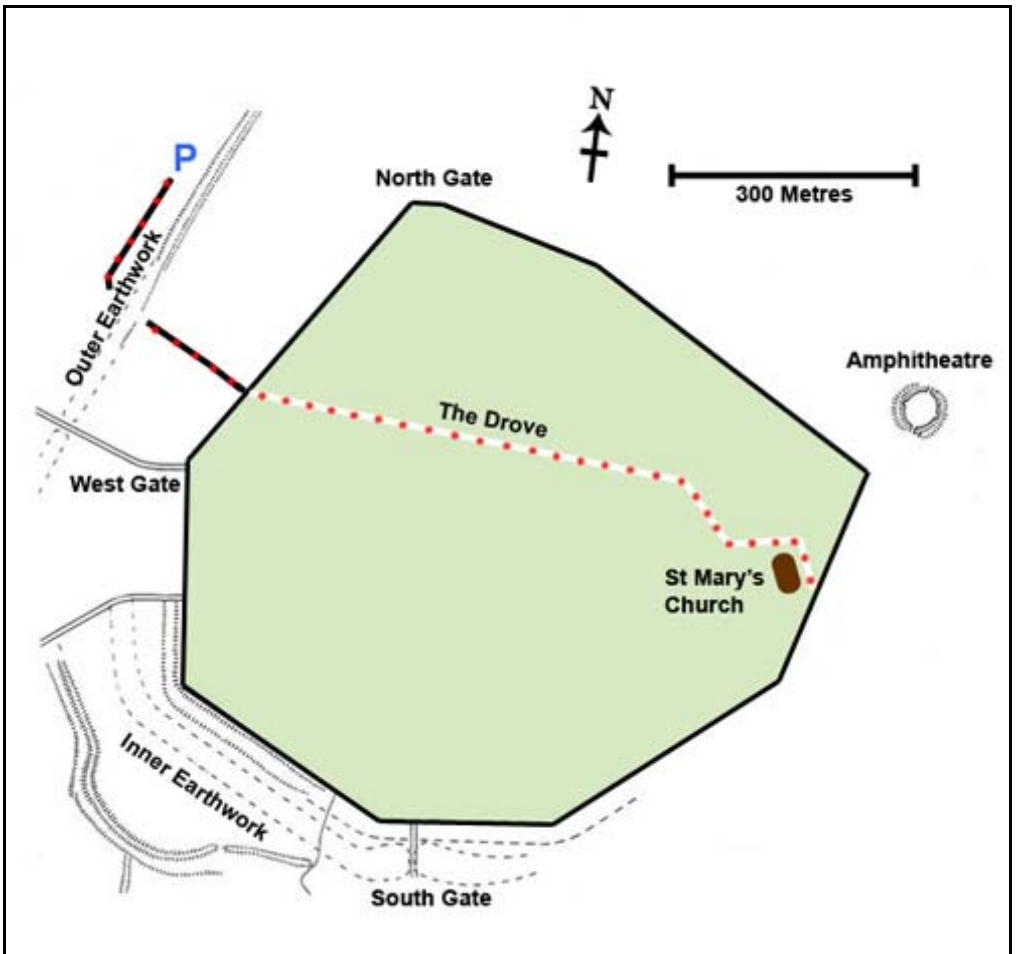


Frozen gorse

TRAIL 2 - The Roman Wall

About this Trail

This trail is designed to increase your knowledge of the Roman Wall area in terms of understanding how the past history has developed the environment of the site as you see it today. The theme of this trail is to understand the importance of **conservation** and **management**, and an understanding of this will be developed along the trail. To help develop your understanding and to increase the interactivity of this trail, questions will be posed along the trail to encourage reflectivity and thought and then the answers to the questions will be displayed in the text. Below is a detailed map of the wall showing the key areas, refer [to page 4 for a detailed route](#).



TRAIL 2 - The Roman Wall

1. From Wall Lane car park, walk past the information pillars onto the foot-path and look to your left through the trees at some ancient earthworks.

Why do you think these earthworks were built ?
Do you think they are Roman or pre-Roman?



View of the wall from Church Lane, just past the church

The Earthwork

This earthwork is pre-Roman and dates from the Iron Age period. It is made up of a bank and a ditch and was used as a defensive structure. The site of Calleva was densely occupied before the Romans settled here by a local Iron Age tribe, the Atrebates and evidence suggests occupation from 25BC (Fulford, 1995). Within the area of these earthworks, excavations revealed round houses which are typical dwellings of the Iron Age period (Fulford, 1995).

2. Carry along the path keeping the earthworks to your left, and pass through a gate and continue, as the path joins a large track.

3. Turn left and off the track through a kissing gate up onto the path on the wall.



The excavation

Looking to the field straight in front of you, you will see the site where for 6 weeks in the summer an archaeological excavation takes place. This excavation has been carried out since 1997 by Reading University students, through part of the commercial and industrial centre of Calleva. The aim of this excavation is to trace the towns development from establishment through to its abandonment.

TRAIL 2 - The Roman Wall

While standing on the path take time to study your surroundings. What are your first impressions? You may be able just to make out the extent of the wall area to your left and right. Are you surprised by the extent of the area? The wall in fact is 1.5 miles in perimeter, and encloses 107 acres of farmland (Fulford, 1995). It is thought that the settlement of Calleva was one of the most important sites in Roman Britain, and the most unusual as it was completely abandoned in the fifth century AD for reasons still unknown (VDS, 2007). Even standing on the mound of earth where the footpath lies, you cannot see any other signs of modern settlement for miles.



View of the wall from Church Lane

4. Continue along the footpath, and pause at the north gate. While walking consider these question and read the following information boxes about the Roman town.

Think about the environmental setting of this site, can you think of any reasons why this site was chosen as base for an important populated town?

The Roman Town

The Romans occupied Calleva Atrebatum after the Roman invasion of Britain in 43 AD. The name Calleva Atrebatum translates to the 'town in the woods of Atrebates', as the town was originally surrounded on three sides by a woodland and Atrebates refers to the local Iron Age tribe (Fulford, 1995). This Iron Age population were very Romanised and by the first century AD the round houses were being replaced by rectangular buildings. The first set of defences were built at the end of the second century AD, these ramparts were made from clay and gravel unearthed from two V-shaped ditches created in front of them (Fulford, 1995).

TRAIL 2 - The Roman Wall

As you are walking along the path, take some time to examine the structure of the wall. The wall has been present here for nearly two thousand years. Considering its age, it is in very good condition. These walls are not just of interest for historical reasons but also for biological reasons. At any time of the year the walls support a variety of plant life, and some of these species exist solely on walls. The biological importance of the wall will be explained later on in the trail.



View of the wall from the south side

Looking at the wall, can you see any evidence of conservation work? Do you think that the wall should be conserved, or should it be just left naturally? Do you think that the biological factors are of any importance in conservation terms?



*Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) on the wall*

History of the Wall

The stone walls were built in the third century between 260-80 AD (Fulford, 1995). The walls were thought to have been over 6m high with a parapet of 1.8m and 3m thick at the base (Boon, 1974). Most of the outer face of the wall no longer exists, so what remains is the internal rubble core (Fulford, 1984). The wall was constructed from flint blocks bonded by lime mortar, and it is thought that 105,000 wagon loads of flint and 45,000 loads of bonding stone were used, some transported from distances of 70-80 km (Fulford, 1995).

You should have by now reached the north gate. The north gate is a good location to look at the detail of the wall. If you look closely you should see evidence of mortar infilling. In the spring this area is covered in plant life, with at least three species of germanium flowers being present here. The north gate is a good location to see the range of plants that can colonise walls. You will see examples of lichens, mosses, flowers, ferns and even trees along this area of the wall.

TRAIL 2 - The Roman Wall



*Herb Robert
(Geranium robertianum)
found on the wall*

*Hedgerow Cransbill
(Geranium pyrenaicum)
found on the wall*



While standing at the north gate, take a look at the landscape around you.

Can you see any evidence other than the wall that this site was at one time home to some 7500 people? Again, consider the environmental reasons why you think that this site was chosen as a settlement base.

*5. Continue along the path and pause when you reach the two stiles on the left which will lead you to the amphitheatre. As you are walking look at the condition of the wall and reflect on the conservation issues. Consider this question; **How well do you think the wall has been conserved?***

'Ghost Town'

The existing north gate is one of a few reminders demonstrating that Silchester was once a large thriving populated city. In fact all that remains from the busy flourishing town that survived for over 500 years, are some sections of the Iron Age earthworks, the Roman amphitheatre and the stone walls. These are the only remnants that the environment has allowed to persist. The site is unique in the fact that it was completely abandoned and not resettled, just left for centuries to the care of the natural environment. In the place of the once thriving interior settlement consisting of public baths, temples, workshops, markets and houses are now just agricultural fields. The mystery is that while most Roman towns evolved into medieval settlements such as that of Winchester, Silchester was left with no successor (Fulford, n.d.). This is the reason for the magic of the site, as Calleva Atrebatum was left largely for the environment to take over, allowing remnants of the period to persist and creating what is thought to be one of the best-preserved Roman walls in Britain (VDS, 2007). It is fortunate in a sense that the environment did take over, and human predecessors did not resettled the site, as it is doubtful that any relicts would have survived, especially the wall in its good condition. Nor would it be possible for the archaeological dig to reconstruct the exact pattern of development as the evidence would have been destroyed by later development.

TRAIL 2 - The Roman Wall

Environmental Setting

From an environmental perspective, at first thought Silchester may seem an unusual location to build a major fortification, far from any water sources and other settlements. However although it is not obvious, it has good environmental advantages. One advantage is that it is built on an easily defensible spur of gravel 90m above sea level, creating powerful views in all directions for protection against enemies (Fulford, 1995). Also, underlying the gravel are supplies of water that can be sourced from shallow wells (Fulford, 1995). The location was also well chosen in the sense that it was isolated enough with no direct neighbours, but at the same time relatively near large important settlements such as Dorchester, which is important for trade (Fulford, n.d.).



The amphitheatre

6. If you have time to visit the amphitheatre, go over the two stiles and turn down the lane to the right. After 100m along the lane there is a gate on your left leading to the amphitheatre. If not just continue along the footpath.

The Amphitheatre

The amphitheatre was built between AD 50 to 70 and was refurbished in the third century with a wall of flint and brown ironstone (Fulford, 1995). The amphitheatre seated up to 9000 spectators upon the earthbanks surrounding the centre (Fulford, 1995). There is no evidence indicating what activities took place here, although it is assumed that gladiator flights took place perhaps using wild beasts, and also public executions (Fulford, 1995).

TRAIL 2 - The Roman Wall

7. To visit the 12th century church and to walk the rest of the wall, go left out of the gate from the amphitheatre along the road.

8. Go around the bend on the right and go up the gravel track and through the gate.

9. To visit the church, enter the kissing gate on the left.



Yew tree in front of the church

Medieval Silchester

Silchester during the medieval period remained as a small settlement, and all that exists from this period is the medieval church of St. Mary which dates mid-twelfth century, and evidence of the occupation of the amphitheatre, also twelfth century. The church of St. Mary the Virgin stands on a spot that was considered scared by pagan worship. Whether this is a coincidence or not, is a mystery. Since the church was built in the twelfth century, the structure has been altered continuously. There is evidence that flat Roman bricks were used either side of the buttresses at the west end of the church and above the priests door in the chancel (Boon, 1989). It is believed that the church was built when two Domesday manors were united by the same owner in 1167 (Boon, 1989).

10. To walk the remaining part of wall, go out of the gate at the other end of the graveyard. If you follow this path all the way along you will eventually reach the track that will lead you back to the car park.

This section of the trail will develop a better understanding about the management and conservation of the wall, as it a good location to see features of past renovation work. The biological diversity of the wall will also be considered.



The fields that the wall enclose

TRAIL 2 - The Roman Wall

This section of wall is the best preserved and most beautiful part. In some places it still stands over 4 meters in height. It has also received the most renovation work. The renovation work will now be explored.

Can you see any evidence of the renovation work? If so, can you tell that more different infilling materials have been used here, than on other parts of the wall?



The south section

Biodiversity of the walls

Walls offer extreme environmental habitats for vegetation. This is due to the extreme effects of temperature, precipitation, wind, humidity and the hardness of the material (Segal, 1969). Nevertheless walls are home to a variety of species and some you may rarely see off walls. A common species is Pellitory of the wall (*Parietaria judaica*) which is abundant on the south section of the wall but is rarely seen on other **aspects**. Another common species on walls is Navelwort (*Umbilicus rupestris*), which may be seen in the wooded section of the wall further on between June and August (Fitter, 1996). **Succession** is an important factor for growth of plants on walls, as most species of plants need ideal conditions to grow, e.g. sufficient amounts of **weathering** of the wall material and the build up of soil. Most plants need the wall to be at least 50-100 years old for the material to have weathered enough (Segal, 1969). Thus Roman walls should *potentially* have more developed vegetation. But this is untrue for this site, as renovation work has involved the clearance of plants with new mortar replacing the older, weathered mortar. This means that the process of succession has to begin again.



*Pellitory of the wall
(Parietaria judaica).*



*Navelwort
(Umbilicus rupestris)*

TRAIL 2 - The Roman Wall

Management of the wall has been carried out to various extents in the past. The picture below is evidence of this. The date of the picture is unknown but probably dates from early 20th century and was taken in the north-west section. This section at present is shown in the bottom picture and is now inaccessible and covered in brambles and bushes. The old picture shows that the top of the wall was once covered in vegetation, but this presently does not exist. These photos illustrate that the vegetation state is in constant flux and conservation work has regularly occurred, although details of past work are not certain.



(Source: Boon, 1974)



*North-eastern
sector*

TRAIL 2 - The Roman Wall

Considering the previous information box, reflect on these questions:

Would you consider the biological diversity of the wall as a conservation issue? I.e. do you think that it is also important to conserve the plants growing on the wall? Would you even consider the plants as a threat to the wall?

Are plants good for walls or bad?

Some plants are deleterious for walls as they weaken the structure of the wall. For example, ivy stems enter the cracks in walls and expand loosening the material, but at the same time dense old stems also can hold the wall together (Gilbert, 1936). Therefore there is a conflicting argument based on wall flora, and the question arises:

What is the conservation value of this site, is it geodiversity or biodiversity?



Example of mortar infilling on the wall

A problem with conservation work

When the south section of wall was last re-pointed in the 1960s, instead of using the historical lime mortar, it was in-filled with Portland cement. This is a very hard, durable mortar favoured for its resistance to weathering. This mortar is bad news for plants as it creates a too harsh environment for them to grow. This can be seen by the lack of plant life of this south facing section.

Should the vegetation be cleared or left?

This decision is a conflict of interest, and a hard one to make but in answer to this question the main threat to the site needs to be examined. This is degradation of the wall by weathering and collapse, which can be caused by both natural changes and ill treatment by humans, i.e. climbing and trampling. In order to prevent the wall from collapsing and deteriorating, the vegetation does need to be cleared in order to re-point the stone work to maintain a stronger structure. Although a good mortar should be used, such as lime mortar that is a closer resemblance to what the Romans would have originally used.

TRAIL 2 - The Roman Wall

The aim of this trial was to relate the history of the site to the environment and to give you a better understanding of the conservation issues. Its aim was also to highlight your attention to the biological factors of the wall- which are often ignored. It is hoped that you will walk away from the site with a more holistic idea about its history and the environment, and in the future will consider relevant conservation issues.

Conclusions

Glossary

Aspect: the direction in which a face, such as wall is facing. i.e. north or south.

Conservation: the activity of humans to actively manage the resources of the earth that are at risk from humans (Reiss, 2002).

Geodiversity: the variety of life within abiotic (non-living) nature.

Management: the control of the environment and nature to ensure its sustainability.

Micro-habitat: is a small scale area that is part of a larger habitat, but where there are differences in ecological conditions.

Species Diversity: is the number of different species in a specific area, weighted by a measure of abundance (Reiss, 2002).

SSSI: These are areas in the UK of particular scientific importance relating to its flora, fauna, geology or appearance, which have some legal protection (Reiss, 2002).

Succession: This is a natural change in the structure of a biological community composition through time (Raven, 2005).

Weathering: a chemical and physical breakdown of material through time through the action of natural forces such as wind and water.

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Conclusions

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- Source of all photos: author.*
- For more information on Silchester Common refer to the Silchester Parish Council website: www.silchester-pc.gov.uk**
- For more information on the Roman site refer the Reading University website: www.rdg.ac.uk/AcaDepts/la/silchester**

