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Heybridge: A Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement

By Mark Atkinson and Steve Preston

Late Iron Age settlement at Heybridge was centred on a shrine, with a series of plots to north and south. In the mid 1st century AD the settlement was remodelled with metalled roads, a new temple on the earlier sacred site and a reworking of the plots into enclosures. North of the settlement were a number of burials, pyre sites and pyre debris dumps, at least one of which may have been 'aristocratic', suggesting the presence of a local elite. A period of stability followed when there was little substantive change to the settlement, except that the temple precinct was remodelled. The settlement seems to have been a large village or small town with a market and a religious function. Gradual decline and contraction is evident through the 3rd and 4th centuries, yet the religious focus remained into the late 4th century, when a substantial building - possibly an early Christian chapel - was placed over the former precinct wall. High-status burial continued at Heybridge into the late 4th century, despite the apparent decline in settlement status. What remained of the former Roman settlement into the 5th century, and whether there was continuity of occupation into the early Saxon period, is unclear. The main focus of early Saxon settlement was on higher ground to the north-east.

Heybridge: a Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement, Excavations at Elms Farm 1993-5, Volume 2, Internet Archaeology 40. http://dx.doi.org/10.11141/ia.38.1. URL: http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue40/1/4-2.html. Fiddyment S., Holsinger B., Ruzzier C., Devine A., Binois A., Albarella U., Fischer R., Nichols E., Curtis A., Cheese E., Teasdale M.D., Checkley-Scott C., Milner S.J., Rudy K.M., Johnson E.J., Vnoucek J., Garrison M., McGrory S., Bradley D.G. and Collins M.J. 2015. Murphy P., Albarella U., Germany M. & Locker A. 2000. Production, imports and status: biological remains from a Late Roman farm, Great Holts Farm, Boreham, Essex. Environmental Archaeology 5, 35-48. Albarella U. 1999. Haselgrove, C.C. 1987: Iron Age Coinage in South-East England: The Archaeological Context, BAR Brit. ser. 174, Oxford. King, A., and Soffe, G. 1991: †Hayling Island', in Jones, R.F.J. (ed.), Britain in the Roman Period: Recent Trends, Sheffield, 111–13. Langton, B., and Holbrook, N. 1997: †Excavations at Langford Road, Heybridge, Essex, 1994; a prehistoric and Roman occupation and burial site', Essex Archaeol. Hist. 28. Mahany, C. (ed.) 1994: Roman Alcester: Southern Extramural Area. 1964–1966 Excavations Part 1: Stratigraphy and Structures, CBA Research Report 96. Rodwell, W.J. 1975: †Trinova Atkinson, M and Preston, S, 2002, †Prehistoric settlement and burials at Elms Farm, Heybridge', Essex Archaeol Hist 32 (for 2001), 42–74 *Atkinson, M and Preston, S, 2015a, Heybridge: a Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement: excavations at Elms Farm 1993–5: vol. 1, E Anglian Archaeol 154, Chelmsford *Atkinson, M and Preston, S, 2015b, Heybridge: a Late Iron. Age and Roman Settlement: excavations at Elms Farm 1993–5: vol. 2, Internet Archaeol Monogr 40 () Barton, N, Ford, S, Collcutt, S, Crowther, J, Macphail, R, Rhodes, E and Van Gijn, A, 2009, †Final Upper Palaeolithic site at Nea Farm, Somer

The Roman 'small town' of Ariconium in southern Herefordshire has long been known as an important iron production centre but has remained very poorly understood. The town is suggested to have developed from a late Iron Age Dobunnic tribal centre, which owed its evident status and wide range of contacts to control of the production and distribution of Forest of Dean iron. Rapid expansion during the second half of the 1st century AD indicates that the local population was able to articulate rapidly with the economic opportunities the Roman conquest brought. The town developed as a typi Other late Iron Age and Roman assemblages from central and south-eastern Britain also reveal the improvement of the main domesticates (Rizzetto et al. 2017), while stable isotope analyses suggest cattle were being moved through longer distances (Minniti et al. 2014; Rizzetto and Aiceti in prep.). All such changes resulted from the need to produce a surplus in order to fuel the Roman taxation cycle. Evidence for changes in the west and north of Britain is much weaker, with little livestock improvement and sheep maintaining an important role (Hammon 2011; Aniceti and Rizzetto in prep.). This cou Price: £20.00.isbn 9781841940991. | Heybridge, a Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement: Excavations at Elms Farm, 1993–5. Volume 1. By M. Atkinson and S. Preston. East Anglian | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. A The Iron Age on the Northumberland Coastal Plain: Excavations in Advance of Development 2002â€"2010. By N. Hodgson , J. McKelvey and W. Muncaster . TWM Archaeology/Arbeia Society, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2012. By the late Iron Age, the Greek economy had recovered and Greece had entered its "classical†period. Classical Greece was an era of cultural achievements including the Parthenon, Greek drama and philosophers including Socrates. The classical period also brought political reform and introduced the world to a new system of government known as demokratia, or "rule by the people.†Persian Empire. Scientists have named the settlement found under ploughed fields in southern Britain "Duropolis†in honor of a tribe called the Durotriges, who lived on the site from around 50 B.C. until A.D. 43, when the Romans invaded Britain. They haven't yet named the site's earlier Iron Age ...read more. Neolithic Revolution. The settlement survives differentially as either earthworks or as buried structures and deposits. A series of small enclosures are defined by banks standing up to 0.2m high and one larger rectangular enclosure to the north west has a bank of up to 1m high with an outer ditch of 3m wide and 0.3m deep. This enclosure contains at least two depressions measuring up to 0.7m deep. Nearby cities