

Reduced from the Parish Tithe Map.

By Henry Maclauchlan



Held at Oxford. June 18th 1850

Scale, 12 Chains to an Inch.

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SILCHESTER.

IN the following observations concerning Silchester, destined to accompany the plan of that interesting site, it is not proposed to announce any discovery, much less to settle disputed points regarding its ancient name and former inhabitants; but merely to explain the sketch which has been taken of its present state.

In pursuing this intention I shall proceed, in the first place, to notice the outline of the earthworks, as it is conjectured they may have existed originally. I shall next endeavour to indicate such additions as we may suppose to have been added by the Romans, or under their superintendence, particularly their roads as distinguished from lines of earthwork. And, lastly, to add some observations on certain detached lines of intrenchment in the neighbourhood.

There is scarcely any Roman station, probably, in Britain at which so many remains have been discovered, as at Silchester, and yet antiquaries are not unanimous as to the place it holds in the Itineraries, or the Saxon warrior by whom it was destroyed.¹

Nennius, who wrote about the eighth century, calls Silchester, *Caer Segeint*; and a stone dug out of the ruins, containing an inscription with the word *Saegon* on it, has

¹ "Silchester is supposed to have been destroyed near the end of the third century, when *Asclepiodatus* came over to Britain to suppress the usurpation of Allectus; and it is probable enough that the town then suffered a siege, being on or near the line of march for the opposing armies. It is also stated, on the

authority of Henry of Huntingdon, that *Caer Segon* was destroyed, and that all its inhabitants were put to the sword, about A.D. 493, by the Saxon chief *Ella*, in his march from Sussex, where he landed, to Bath." (*United Serv. Journ.*, p. 38. Jan. 1836.)

been interpreted to signify that the Segontiaci inhabited Silchester, and that it was their chief town. This tribe is mentioned by Cæsar as one that submitted to his arms, and is placed by him after the Cenimagni, and before the Ancalites.²

The great difficulty lies with the Itineraries ; as to whether it was the *Vindomis*, or the *Calleva Atrebatum*, of Antoninus, and Richard of Cirencester.³

It is now, however, generally admitted, that, according to the explanation of Dr. Horsley, it must be considered the *Calleva Atrebatum*.⁴ After an examination of the distances between the stations, as given in the Itinerary, with the actual distances between the stations known, he thus accounts for the place being the residence of both the Segontiaci and the Atrebates :—

“The Segontiaci are not mentioned at all by Ptolemy ; and possibly in his time, and also when the Itinerary was written, might be joined to the Atrebates, and looked upon

² Cæsar, *De Bello Gall.*, v. 21.

³ Mr. Kempe says, “Nennius tells us it was also called *Murminium* ; an appellation which we must consider had allusion to its *wall*, which, even to this day, is so strikingly characteristic of its site. The term *Galleva*, or *Calleva*, of the Roman Itineraries, appears to have had the same source, and was but a softened form of the British *Gual Vaur*, or the *Great Wall*.” (Appendix to *Archæologia*, vol. xxvii., page 416.) There certainly seems a probability that the city was divided originally between two tribes, if not more.

Dr. Beeke says, “Now it is certain that *Calleva* was in the direct road from London to Bath, and consequently must have been in or near Reading, because the nature of the country has caused, that the straightest is at the same time the most convenient line between those cities, and that line passes through Reading.” (*Archæologia*, vol. xv., page 186.)

⁴ Sir R. C. Hoare observes, “we find that Camden, Stukeley, and Dr. Beeke, place *Vindomis* at Silchester ; Horsley, at Farnham ; and Mr. Reynolds at the Vine ; whilst Dr. Stukeley places *Calleva* at Farnham ; Horsley at Silchester ; Mr. Reynolds at Reading ; Dr. Beeke at the same place ; and Dr. Milner, the historian of Winchester, at Wallingford. To these I must add some other opinions, which coincide with those of the intelligent investigator of Roman antiquities, Horsley, and which, I think, rest upon better

grounds than those of the writers on this disputed subject. Among the first I shall mention the name of Mr. Lethicullier, a gentleman of Hampshire, who collected notes of Roman antiquities both at home and abroad. In his MS. papers he says, that Mr. Horsley has very judiciously proved Silchester to be the *Calleva Atrebatum* of the Itineraries. Of the same opinion are my learned friends, the Rev. Thomas Leman, of Bath, and the Rev. Archdeacon Cox, of Salisbury, from whose joint information and notes the improved edition of Richard of Cirencester was published in the year 1809. The recent survey of these rival stations, and the discovery of a new station on Finkley Farm, induce me to agree with them in placing *Calleva* at Silchester.” (*Anc. Wilts.*, vol. ii., p. 54.) Of this “new station on Finkley Farm,” Sir Richard observes, “the resident farmer at Finkley showed us a tile with indented marks on it, which we immediately preclaimed to be of Roman manufacture. We picked up several fragments of pottery, and observed marks of old inclosures in the corn fields.” (*Anc. Wilts.*, vol. ii., p. 49.) A more recent anonymous writer observes, “the word Segontium remains to destroy the possibility of its ever having been the *Atrebatum Calleva*, if it does not afford us any light as to *Vindomis*.” (Observations upon certain Roman roads and towns in the South of Britain, A.D. 1836, p. 32.)

only as a part of that people ; so that what was before a city of the Segontiaci, might then justly be termed a city of the Atrebatas.”—(Brit. Romana, page 442.)

A writer in the “United Service Journal” (Jan. 1836) observes, “The designation Atrebatum is given by Antoninus to Calleva, and an inscription on a stone, which was dug up at Silchester, appears to have expressed a dedication to Hercules of the Segontiaci ; it seems, therefore, that the town was at different times subject to those different tribes ; but as the boundaries of the *Atrebatas*, the *Segontiaci*, and *Bibroci*, appear to have coincided in the neighbourhood, and as the Belgæ from Gaul subsequently gained possession of the same part of the country, it is easy to conceive that the place may have been considered as belonging to any, or all, of the four people.”—(Page 38.)

These opinions may receive some support on examination of the boundary dividing the counties of Berks and Hants, which, taken as a general line, runs from the eastward directly towards the middle of Silchester, and continues on the opposite side of the station in a similar direction, nearly due east and west. The only deviation is at Silchester, where Hampshire includes a part of the parish of Mortimer, called Mortimer-west-end ; which part was, probably, added to the ancient manor of Silchester at an early period, though originally belonging to the tribe that occupied the Berkshire side of the boundary line.

The earliest map of Silchester, published by Dr. Stukeley,⁵ makes the form of the place quadrangular. The next was an actual survey of the walls by Mr. Wright, the original of which is in the King’s library, in the British Museum. In this the exterior line of defence is omitted. On this map were drawn the principal streets, as traced by Mr. Stair from time to time, and published, with a description, in the Philosophical Transactions, in 1748, by Mr. Ward, Gresham Professor.⁶

Although these streets are still visible, a little before harvest, in the stunted and discoloured crops where the streets ran, the observation that “two of the streets wider than the others lead to the four gates of the city, one from north to south, the other from east to west,” is not correct.

⁵ Itinerarium Curiosum.

⁶ Philosophical Transactions, No. 490.
A.D. 1748. See also a “Plan of Silchester,”

by Mr. A. J. Kempe, in the Appendix to the 27th vol. of the Archæologia, Plate 32, p. 419.

For though the one from north to south runs directly from one gate to the other, as drawn in the plan, the other does not run directly from east to west, as is stated; and if it did, the streets could none of them be at right angles to each other, which in fact they are; the eastern street being a continuation of the Roman way from the eastward, through the eastern gate to the forum, or centre building; and the western street running in the direction of the south-east angle of the work, and passing on continuously by the north end of the centre building.

It would be necessary to examine these streets year after year, as the crops come on successively, in the way Mr. Stair did, to be able to make out the whole of them; but they have been sufficiently examined to show that the principal streets were towards the true cardinal points, and consequently at right angles to each other.⁷ Such as have been observed on the ground are introduced on the map in dotted lines.

A minute account of the wall will be found in the "Philosophical Transactions," No. 490, A.D. 1748. It appears to have been about 13 feet high, and about 8 feet thick at the bottom, composed of layers of flat stones about 30 inches apart, with flints between them, set in very strong mortar.⁸ The circuit of the wall is about a mile and a half, and the area inclosed is about 102 acres.

The exterior line of defence, which is at an irregular distance, averaging 170 yards from the wall, consists of a rampart and outside ditch, which, when complete, may have been continuous all round, but at present there is no reason to suppose it to have been carried round on the south-east side.⁹ The height of the rampart of this exterior line seems

⁷ "The interior has long been subject to the action of the plough; but to the eyes of an antiquary the directions of the ancient streets, at right angles to each other, are yet perceptible, by a difference in the height of the corn growing on them when compared with its general surface." (United Service Journal, January, 1836, p. 38.)

The position of the bath has been fixed on the map by the concurrent testimony of three persons residing at Silchester, who saw the excavation open. Though the rector had carefully fenced in a way to the remains, so as to protect the farmer's crops, such was the destruction committed by persons crossing the fields in

every direction, that at the earnest request of the tenant, the proprietor desired that the foundations should be covered in. See the position of the bath, as laid down in Mr. A. J. Kempe's Map. (Archæologia, vol. xxvii., p. 419. Plate xxxii. Appendix.)

⁸ We could not see the part of the wall where, it is stated, the flat courses were six in number; five seems the most common number of horizontal courses, making about 13 feet.

⁹ The value of the ground, and its southern aspect, may perhaps account for the more complete destruction of the outer entrenchment on the southern side.

to have been about 15 feet above the interior; the ditch about 60 feet wide, and the bottom of it about 20 feet below the top of the rampart. Though this exterior line conforms to the shape of the ground in some measure, it does not seem to have done so altogether, and, from its irregular outline, it seems probable that it existed before the wall was built; and, from its general conformity, that there was a rampart where the wall now is before the latter was built.

If we compare the whole work with some of the ancient camps in Cornwall, which are supposed to be British, such as Burydown, near Lanreath, and Castle-an-Dinas, near St. Columb Major, both of circular form, we might suppose that the original outline of Silchester was British also. This may receive some confirmation from the three large dikes which diverge from it.¹ One from the north gate, points towards Pangbourne on the Thames; one from the south gate, apparently, though not exactly, continuous with the northern dyke, leads towards Winchester, and is called by Gough, in his additions to Camden,² as also by Stukeley, *Longbank* and *Grimesditch*.³

Another, in the direction from Andover and Old Sarum, which comes up close to the ditch of the outer rampart when it swells out to the south-west projection, which, it should be observed, is not opposite either of the gates in the wall, and is therefore probably anterior to its formation, if we suppose that at this point there was originally an entrance.⁴ Each of these lines of entrenchment consists of a rampart and ditch—the ditch being on the south-east in the two southern lines, and on the west in the northern one.

¹ One of these dikes as it leaves the rampart, and the rampart itself, are drawn in Sir R. C. Hoare's Map, in the 2nd vol. of his *Ancient Wilts*; but the rampart is not continued on the eastern side, where the traces are sufficiently strong to introduce it; and which leads Mr. Albert Way to suppose, that the amphitheatre was originally within the lines of defence. He says, "an argument in favour of the original continuity of the exterior line of entrenchment around the whole of Silchester, may be gathered, as it strikes me, from the position of the amphitheatre, slightly beyond, or, at all events, in a parallel line with the face of the inner work, on the side where the outer work is now wanting." (MS. Notes, Nov. 1849)

² Gough's *Camden*, vol. i., p. 142. (Perhaps, from *Grim*, an *elf*, a *hag*, *witch*. Bosworth's Dict.)

³ "Farther on I crossed a great Roman road coming from Winchester; they call it *Long bank*, and *Grime's dike*." (Page 169, Stukeley.)

⁴ The only way we can suppose this line to have entered the gate in the wall, either the *west* or *south* gate, would have been by a traverse in the outer entrenchment, near each gate; for the rampart is perfect and continuous where the line approaches the outer rampart. To this supposition the present appearance of the ruins offers no difficulty, except that the outer ditch could not have been filled with water.

These dykes are not so straight as the lines of Roman road, but are curved more or less in several places; this is the more necessary to observe, because from what Gough, in his additions to Camden, says, "A military road called *Longbank* and *Grimesdyke*, pitched with flints, runs from the south gate of the town to the north gate of Winchester," it would be supposed that this bank was in some part pitched with flints, which there is no reason to believe it ever was, as it runs half a mile on the west of Latchmore Green, where the pitched way has been opened, and where it may be seen now, it is presumed, if the surface be removed. Others, following the above writers, have said the same thing; but, if the matter be examined, it will most likely be found that the Roman roads were straight, paved with flints, and bedded in gravel.

The entrenched line, which leaves the outer rampart between the west gate and the south gate, at the projection before mentioned, runs about 200 yards in a southerly direction, and then turns towards the westward,⁵ but is not to be seen beyond the road from Silchester Common to Latchmore Green.

That which leaves the south gate of the outer rampart is scarcely to be seen in the copse for about 200 yards, but, on emerging from it, the traces are seen in the fence which has been formed on it, being a broad bank raised about two feet or more, with a ditch on the south-east side; it crosses a small rill, where it is obscure, and thence serves as a field-way as far as the road from Silchester Common to Latchmore Green, where a pond in the road seems to have been formed in the ditch of the entrenchment; crossing the road, it forms the south side of the lane, called the Old-house Road, for about 150 yards; thence, bending to the south, it is large and well defined as it runs towards the brook, on each side of which, for a short distance, it is not traceable, but appears again in a broad fence as it proceeds to form the east side of the wood, on the boundary of Silchester parish. Crossing the parish boundary it continues straight as it enters the wood in the parish of Pamber, and continues to form the east boundary of the wood till we come to Frog Lane. At this

⁵ In the Map of Silchester, given in the 2nd vol. of "Ancient Wilts.," this *turn* above-mentioned is described as a "Roman

road from Old Sarum, and a branch is continued, which we failed to notice, as a "Roman road from Winchester."

spot it makes a slight bend to the south, and may be traced, but very obscurely, close on the west of the farm buildings, and at about 150 yards distance disappears altogether ; this last direction, which is south-west by west, would lead near to the hamlet called Little London, considerably to the west of where the supposed Roman road had been ploughed up by a person named William Morrell, in Long Ayliffs Field.

The third entrenched line, which, as we have already stated, points northward, cannot be seen for 330 yards after it has left the outer entrenchment. As we enter Ford's Copse, the traces are very evident, and continue to within a short distance of the brook, where it is lost, but appears again, with the ditch on the west side, (which seems to be partly natural and partly artificial) as we ascend the hill. In the meadow, west of the farm house, it is totally lost ; and though it is probable that it followed the course of the road, close to the pound and the pond, the traces are scarcely sufficient to be considered a continuation of it, though beyond the cross road, on the west of the fence, in the same continuous right line, a bank and ditch look very like its course ; but beyond this nothing has been traced of either the rampart or the ditch.

These three entrenched lines are very similar, but there is no reason to suppose that they are of Roman construction ; for they are not straight, have not been found to have been paved, and the low ground, or ditch, is only on one side.⁶

Having thus examined what there is left of the entrenched lines, we will now proceed to examine what traces may be discerned of the Roman ways. And, first, we may observe, that since the neighbourhood of Silchester consists of the rolled flints and sands of Bagshot Heath, or of the plastic clay formation, it is not at all probable that any of the large unrolled flints of the chalk would be found near the surface of the ground. The only large stones found about the place

⁶ If we presume these three lines of entrenchment, with the outer rampart and ditch, as well as an inner rampart and ditch on which the present wall stands, to have existed before the Romans visited the island, it is possible, that finding the present north and south gateway in existence, they made their principal street between them, and drew the rest some parallel, and others at right

angles to this principal street ; also, that the street from the west gate was made to conform with an ancient entrance, and that they broke through the rampart to form an entrance on the east for their own Roman way ; for had they constructed the work anew, there was nothing in the ground to have made them deviate from the usual method of rectangular construction of the walls.

are those sandstones called grey wethers, or sarsen stones, which Dr. Buckland supposed to be "the wreck of the harder portion of the sandy strata of the contiguous London and New Forest basins."⁷

These stones appear to have been used pretty freely in the formation of the wall of Silchester, together with oolitic rocks, probably from the north-west of Oxford. As these large flints are uncommon about the fields in the neighbourhood, it is not to be wondered at that, when a plough comes in contact with a bed of them, however narrow, it should be noticed; and indeed, when there are so few building stones in the immediate neighbourhood, it would not be remarkable if they were sought after and dug up whenever the plough touched on them. From examination of places near Silchester where these flints have been found, which generally are about two feet below the present surface, and further westward on the chalk, where the line has not sunk so much, or become covered by deposition, there is reason to think that the line was never raised to a great height above the surface, and that the fall was the same on each side of the road.

The most easily recognised line of Roman way is that known as the Devil's Causeway at Bagshot Heath; it passes about 200 yards on the north of Finchamstead church, crosses near Thatcher's Ford (where it is the south boundary of an isolated part of the county of Wilts), and seems, under the present name of Park Lane, to have originally given name to *Turgis*, *Saye*, and *Mortimer*, *Stratfield*.⁸

Having come from the eastward, with a direction due west, where it arrives at the cross road (at the west end of Park Lane), it makes the smallest possible bend, one scarcely perceptible, and runs the last mile and three quarters due west into the east gate of Silchester.

⁷ Trans. Geo. Soc., No. 12, p. 126. This paper was an important step in advance of the geological knowledge of the day when it was written. (Read Feb. 8, 1825.)

⁸ "The road issues from the town at the eastern gate, where the present church of Silchester is situated, and proceeds in a rectilinear direction through Stratfield-saye, along what is now called Park Lane, which is scarcely passable in the winter season. The line of its direction crosses the Loddon, near the bridge, at the nor-

thern extremity of the park, and passes through a ford near the junction of the Blackwater and Whitewater rivers, about two miles from the place where the united streams fall into the Loddon; but the traces of its course are much interrupted by cultivation till we come to West Court House, the seat of the Rev. H. E. St. John, built, according to tradition, upon the road itself, the direction of which is marked by the avenue to the mansion." (United Service Journal, Jan. 1836: Part 1, p. 39.)

Though there can be little doubt that this is the true Roman line, we find no ditch on either side, or any embankment, nor any flints on the surface ; but when we find that this last direction of the line leads through the east gate, and coincides, in continuation, with a street as traced within the ancient town, we cannot refuse to admit that we are on the line.

Beyond this, however, we may observe, that though the course of the present road terminates 1000 yards before it arrives at the gate, and the line of the fence forward can scarcely be relied on, a recent breaking up of a meadow, called Mouse-hill Meadow, which had been grass-land beyond the memory of man, disclosed the bed of flints embedded in gravel cemented with ferruginous clay, precisely in the line towards the gate, about a foot or 18 inches below the surface, and I saw them carted away as an obstruction to cultivation. This field is the second from the gate, and the third from the cross-road.

The next important line of Roman road from Silchester was towards Winchester.⁹ This also is presumed to have been straight, at least as far as Rook's Down, near Basingstoke, over which it appears to have gone, there being a tradition that a part of it was formerly dug up, the present general appearances also of the road confirming this.

This road does not appear to have departed straight in continuation from the south *gate* of the *wall* ; but the north and the south gate being truly so of each other, the street connecting them was continued, it is presumed, in each instance, on to the outer rampart, and the road commenced its direction through the town from that *outer gate*.

Presuming this to have been the direction of the south road, to which the present line generally conforms for a considerable distance, we find it to be bearing S. W. to S 2½° S., and, following this course, at Latchmore Green we find that remains have been dug up in two gardens,¹ and a small meadow² on the west of the present road, and that other remains have been ploughed up on Moor's Farm, in a field called Long Ayliffs.³

⁹ "There is one of these (military ways) yet visible, that leads towards Winchester." (Horsley, p. 459.)

¹ Statement of John and Ambrose Ham. James Simpson, a sawyer, at Silchester, ninety years of age, made a

sawpit at the back of Moor's Farm ; and, in digging down, came upon a bed of large flints like a road. A. Ham heard his father speak of the same flints.

² Stated by David Norris.

³ By William Morrell, of Moor's Farm.

On a survey of the direction and bearing of these places pointed out, and on an examination of the flints, we find that each place coincides with the general line and with the particular bearing, whence we conclude that such is the true course of the road, and that it crosses Rook's Down and the turnpike road from Basingstoke to Andover, at Worting, two miles on the west of Basingstoke.⁴

The next line we shall notice is that from Old Sarum (Sorbioduno) to Silchester.

Though the general bearing of this line (N. E. by E. 6° E.) runs straight upon Silchester, no trace of it can be seen on the east of Foscot, which is six miles from the place. At this distance it is not easy to say which gate it entered at, but the probability is that it was on the south.⁵ Several places were examined where the stunted corn showed the existence of solid materials below ; but as it is common for the gravel, of which the country is composed, to be consolidated by the percolation of water through it, containing a portion of iron and clay, there is no confidence to be placed in these indications alone, particularly as the flints were absent.

A line of this sort was pointed out, by the gamekeeper in Pamber Forest,⁶ where, from the undisturbed state of the surface, some indications would be expected ; but, though vestiges are near the line, they contain no flints, and therefore cannot be depended on : supposing them to be real traces, the line would have run about 50 yards north of the bridge which divides the parishes of Pamber and Tadley, on the road from Basingstoke to Aldermaston.

Pushing on to the westward, to catch the true bearing of the line, we came up to it at about a mile north-west of Hannington, where an old farmer pointed it out across several fields : about this place it is clearly drawn on the Ordnance map. The *Portway*, which is the name it still

⁴ "The road from Silchester to Winchester falls into this" (Popham Lane) "near Kempshot turnpike-gate, at an angle of incidence of about 40°." (Anonymous Obs. on Rom. Roads, &c., p. 29.)

⁵ It is possible, as this course is not followed in any of the lines given in the Itineraries, that it was never completed through the forest of Pamber ; but that the way from Foscot may have taken the course of the upper ground as a tem-

porary junction with the Winchester and Silchester road, somewhere about Rook's Down, along the escarpment of the chalk.

⁶ A person, named Joseph Watson, took some trouble to point out to me where he thought the line passed ; through Frame Green Copse, and Bentley-Green Copse, across a drain, diagonally through his cottage meadows, under his barn, and so continuing westward across the road, about fifty yards north of the bridge.

bears, passes Hannington about a mile on the north, and crosses the field-way leading to Plantation Farm, near Woolverton, about 240 yards north of the cross road ; thence it follows the fence nearly, which is a very thick one, for some distance, and then falls obliquely into the valley where the farmer still points out the mark of it in his corn at particular seasons ; but it is exceedingly obscure, except where it passes the road and has caused a slight bend in its line ; thence it passes the cross road about 90 yards on the south of it ; it crosses the lane called Pit Lane, about 260 yards east of the cross road above mentioned, and is fairly visible as it ascends the hill to cross the road from Woolverton to Ewhurst.

Beyond this there is not the least vestige, in an easterly direction, to be depended on ; and even what has been described above could not have been traced but from a projection of the straight line. Still the slight bend in the old Reading Road seems to mark where the ancient way passed, and the line carried forward falls on the old cottage called Foss Cot, which derived its name probably from being situated in the fosse, or on the dyke of the Roman way. The farm buildings are more recent in appearance than the cottage, hence the name of Foscot Farm has probably been derived from the Cot. A little on the west of these buildings, on the side of the old road, is a farm which was once a public house, called the "Brazen Head." As this line was straight, there could have been no choice of ground between Old Sarum and Silchester ; but no present road descends the chalk range of hills with less sudden declivity than this old line called the *Portway*.

No attempts we made to carry the line forward to the eastward were successful ; and though there can be no doubt that it ran a little on the south of Tadley Place, the resident farmer has never heard of it, though he has resided there for many years.⁷

The next road we can only suppose to have existed, for there are no remains to be seen of it. As there is a west gate, there must have been a road branching from it, and the present county boundary between Hampshire and Berkshire, as a general line, seems probably to have been the course of it towards Newbury (Spinæ). The general line of this

⁷ Some ancient painted glass exists in one of the windows at Tadley Place, which is not undeserving of notice.

boundary runs towards a large tumulus, which, at a distance of four miles from Silchester, forms the meeting point of the parishes of Brimpton, Wasing, Aldermaston, and Baughurst, as we understood ; Tadley, at one time, we are told, ran up to it also ; but, in some dispute with the parish of Baughurst, a part of the common was lost.

Those who have examined cases where the boundary over unenclosed commons has been disputed, will be prepared to learn that the county line is not straight, and, though the general line is tolerably so, there are several bends in it ; still it seems probable that this county line of boundary to the west of Silchester was as much a line of road as the similar line on the east.

It has been observed before, that taking the course of this west line as compared with that on the east, by Park Lane, it seems probable that Mortimer-west-end was once within the boundary of Berkshire, and that it was in ancient times taken within the Hundred of Holdshot to enlarge the manor of Silchester.⁸

The present county boundary was made at the general enclosure, and an old resident on Tadley Common, who assisted in making the fence, contended that previously there was no fence over the common between the counties ; we may, therefore, borrow a little from each side, and presume that the original line, the ancient division of the tribes, ran straight to the large tumulus⁹ on Baughurst Common, and perhaps was the line of the Roman way as far as the tumulus, and that thence towards Newbury (Spinæ) the Roman road took another direction. Be this as it may, there is not even a flint in the way side to lead to a supposition that the road was ever there.¹

⁸ At a little more than a mile from the West Gate on this line of boundary is an ancient stone, called *Nymph Stone*. Some suppose the word may have been *Imp*, and thus have been placed by the Romans ; but as it forms the boundary stoue of parishes, as well as counties, at that spot, it seems more likely to have been placed where it is, when Mortimer West End is presumed to have been added to Holdshot Hundred. I think I was indebted for the above suggestion regarding Mortimer West End to the Rev. Mr. Coles, the rector of Silchester, whose permission to examine the parish map, and even to dig for remains within the glebe lands, I am desirous to acknowledge, with thanks.

⁹ This tumulus is the most easterly of three, near to each other, near the Lodge Gate, at the entrance leading to Wasing. It is surrounded by a ditch of 60 yards in diameter ; and though a great quantity has been carried away, it still stands a remarkable monument of former times. These tumuli are called Baughurst barrows ; they are about 560 feet above the sea level, and about 460 feet below the chalk range.

¹ Dr. Beeke observes, " no traces remain of any regularly drawn road from Silchester to Newbury, wherefore I think that the western communication with the road from London to Bath was at Thatcham." (*Archæologia*, vol. xv., p. 184.)

The last line we shall examine is that diverging from the north gate; and if we take the line of entrenchment in Ford's Copse for it, leading, as it does, towards Pangbourne, we must do so on the appearance and course of the entrenchment alone, and not from any other evidence of flints or embedded gravel. It must be observed, however, that each of these road-like entrenchments, the one pointing towards Winchester, that towards Old Sarum, and this towards Pangbourne, branch off from this place at a projection in the exterior line of defence, and in two instances at a Roman gateway. This does not prove them to have been roads, but may lead to the supposition that they were coeval with the Roman work, if not made before it. On the other hand, it seems unlikely that works of the kind would have remained even so perfect as they are, during the long period which elapsed from the building of the wall to the destruction of the place, occupied as the place must have been by a numerous population.

Such are the principal works connected with Silchester. We will now, lastly, proceed to add some observations on two other lines of entrenchment in the neighbourhood, which, though unconnected with Silchester, or with each other, may deserve a notice.

The first we may describe is situated on Mortimer Heath, about a mile and a half from Silchester, in a N. by E. direction.²

The length of the entrenchment, which consists of a rampart, and ditch on the north side, is about 380 yards, its west end resting on the Reading road at about 450 yards after it leaves the Mortimer and Aldermaston road; its course is E.N.E. On the opposite side of the road, to the west end of this entrenchment, at a distance of about 180 yards in a west direction, and near a deep ravine which has been artificially made into a pond, is an oval space, of about 40 by 60 yards in extent, having the appearance of, and

² "At the distance of about a mile and a half from Silchester, towards the north-west, there still exists a long embankment of earth with its ditch, which, after being interrupted for about two miles, appears again in a spot situated due north of the town, near the village of Mortimer; and in the immediate vicinity of the walls, near the north gate, are the remains of another embankment of the same kind, which,

according to a tradition current among the country people, at one time entirely surrounded the city. This last work must have constituted an external fortification, strengthening the place; the former is, probably, a remnant of some entrenchment which had been raised for the protection of an army acting on the defensive, and covering the town on that side." (United Service Journal, Jan. 1836, p. 38.)

traditionally said to have been, a camp ; but so very little remains of either rampart or ditch, that it is difficult to say what it has been ; still, when considered in connection with the entrenchment so near it, and which seems once to have extended towards it, we may accept the tradition as probable.

About 500 yards on the north of this camp, on the north side of the road from Mortimer, and close to it, are three tumuli ; the centre one is the largest, being about 40 yards in diameter, the other two about 25 yards each.

It is impossible to speculate on the purpose of these works, but a notice of the position of the ditch of the entrenchment will be made hereafter.

The second entrenchment which we have to describe is that in Aldermaston Park, about two miles N. W. by W. of Silchester, and a mile and a half from Aldermaston ; this consists, like the former, of a rampart and deep ditch on the north-west side, and at a short distance from the front were once some tumuli, but they are now nearly destroyed. This entrenchment is nearly a mile in length, running in a N. E. by N. direction ; it may have been connected with some camp, as the Mortimer Heath one is, and something of the sort is mentioned in "Chandler's History of Silchester," (page 39), but we could neither see nor hear of the remains in question.³

The south end of this Aldermaston entrenchment is turned by the ditch, as if it were never carried further ; and, as this end approaches the termination of a ravine, as well as the north end, it is probable that it may have been cast up as a breast-work before a defensive position ; the tumuli are found also on the ditch side, or front, in this case as well as in that at Mortimer Heath, so that it is possible they may both have been thrown up for the same purpose.

The great signal post of this district must always have been *Beacon Hill*, about a mile from Burghclere (which perhaps took its name from the fortified post), and about twelve miles W. by S. 4° S. of Silchester ; it is visible also from

³ Dr. Beoko remarks, "There is a remarkable fosse about a mile and a half from Silchester, on the N. W., which begins about a quarter of a mile to the south of Ufton Church, and runs straight through the whole of the parishes of Ufton,

Padworth, and Aldermaston, excepting where interrupted in two or three places by boggy valleys of very small extent. The ditch is on the side of the mound most distant from Silchester." (*Archæologia*, vol. xv., p. 185.)

Lowbury, near Compton, on the north, and from Egbury on the south.

EGBURY CAMP (*Vindomis* ?)

A learned commentator on Richard of Cirencester's Itinerary, remarks respecting the situation of *Vindomis*—"Of the next station we can merely offer a conjecture. As the country of the Atrebates and their capital *Calleva*, or Silchester, is by our author described as lying near the Thames, in distinction from that of the *Segontiaci*, whose capital, *Vindomis*, was further distant from that river, and nearer the Kennet, one point only appears to suit the distances, which bears the proper relation to the neighbouring stations, and at the same time falls at the intersection of two known Roman Roads. This is in the neighbourhood of St. Mary Bourne, and affords reason for considering Egbury camp, or some spot near it, as the capital of the *Segontiaci*."⁴

On examination of the neighbourhood of St. Mary Bourne, we find no remains of any buildings to lead to the supposition that a station so remarkable as the *Vindomis* of the Romans was ever placed there.

Egbury camp, or castle, is situated one mile and a half east of St. Mary Bourne, and about the same height above the sea as Silchester.

The castle, as the entrenchment is called, is in the form of an irregular pentagon, and may originally have enclosed about twelve acres ; but a great part of the rampart has been destroyed, and the whole of the ditch has been filled in. There is but one entrance visible, which is on the west, though there are slight vestiges of one on the east, with faint traces of a road communicating with the ancient way from Newbury to Winchester ; which way seems to have touched, if not actually entered the south-east angle of the camp, and thence have taken a new direction towards Winchester.

The rampart is about nine feet high in one part, towards the north-west angle, at which angle there may have been a signal post.

Though the vestiges of the ditch are scarcely to be seen, its depth was considerable, as the farmer adjoining found when he dug on the east side for a pond ; this excavation

⁴ See the late Mr. Leman's observations, appended to Mr. Hatcher's edition of Richard of Cirencester, 1809, p. 156.

See also Sir R. C. Hoare's *Anc. Wilts.*, vol. ii.

failed for the purpose of containing water, the bottom being composed of rubbish, rich manure, and broken pottery. Scarcely any of the relics found seem to have been preserved; two Roman coins, apparently of Gallienus and Claudius Gothicus, picked up here, are now in the possession of Mrs. Vincent at the farm-house adjoining. These, however, are not sufficient to prove that Egbury was the *Vindomis* of the Itineraries.

With respect to the distances of the camp from the Portway, the farmer pointed out clearly where it ran,⁵ despairing of being ever able to reduce the stony line to the fertility of the surrounding soil; its bearing proves the correctness of his observation, though the uncertainty of its appearance has been the cause of its not being continued just here in the Ordnance map. The distance from Silchester would agree with the Itinerary, being nearly *fifteen* miles; but that from Winchester can scarcely be reconciled with the distance of *Vindomis* from *Venta Belgarum*, being stated in the Itinerary, both of Antoninus and Richard, to be *twenty-one* miles.

If we follow the straight line in one case, it would be but consistent to do so in another, and even with the short miles of D'Anville⁶ we cannot make more than sixteen miles between Winchester and St. Mary Bourne. Had this been the *Vindomis*, it is presumed that some distance from Speen (*Spinis*) would also have appeared in one of the Itineraries.

The Portway is traceable from the certainty of its having followed a straight line: it must have crossed the St. Mary Bourne stream about 250 yards south of the church, where there is still a ford and foot-bridge into Chorley Meadow; this ford may possibly have been continued from the Roman age. Proceeding to the west, its traces appear at the south-east corner of Butt Close, and ascending that field, in which a few of the enormous flints are still found, it is visible as a slight ridge through Derry-down Copse, and thence forms the ancient pathway to Flesh, or Fleych Stile, where it becomes visible as the common road to Middlewick Farm. About half a mile beyond the farm it descends to lower ground, and passes the end of a deep entrenchment

⁵ About 770 yards S. W. of Mr. Vincent's house.

⁶ Bohn's Antiq. Lib., Six Old Eng.

Chron., p. 475. "From these results D'Anville estimates the Roman mile at 735 toises, or 1593 yards, English measure."

called the Devil's Ditch, or Dike.⁷ In its general bearing this work runs south.⁸ It is not quite straight, but conforms to the shape of the valley for some distance from the road, about a quarter of a mile perhaps, and distinguished beyond that by a plantation of fir trees, where it is said to form the boundary of the parish of St. Mary Bourne. There it is well preserved, and may be examined to advantage, particularly at its south end, where the railway has cut through it and exposed a section, from which it would appear that the ditch was about eight feet below the ground, and the rampart the same above it, with the ditch on the *west*. From the railway it ascends a rising ground called Tinker's Hill, and sweeps round the west edge of the summit in a manner to present its ditch to the westward, thus commanding a view of the declivity, and, at the same time, forming a defence to the top of the hill. It does not appear to have been carried beyond this hill, and terminates about 350 yards to the south of the old road called the *Oxen-drove*. Though there is a tradition that the entrenchment extended beyond the Portway on the north, we could not ascertain, nor see any proofs of the story; but about 800 yards north-west of the point of junction we find two tumuli, on a rising ground, a little on the west of Trendley Copse. These tumuli are situated, it may be observed, on the ditch-side of the entrenchment. Devil's Ditch may have been an ancient way, or a boundary, of which the Portway may have been its connecting way or side.

HENRY MACLAUHLAN.

The various relics of Roman times which have been disinterred from time to time at Silchester, are very numerous. Gough, in his additions to Camden's *Britannia* (vol. i., p. 204, edit. 1806), has enumerated many, now, it

⁷ It is near to this ancient dike that Sir R. C. Hoare has placed *Vindomis*, on Rinkley Farm, about 600 yards on the south of the Portway, and 200 yards to the west of the dike.

The distance of this spot, from Silchester, is about seventeen English miles; and that to Winchester about thirteen, in a straight line. (*Anc. Wilts.*, vol. ii., p. 49; fol. ed.)

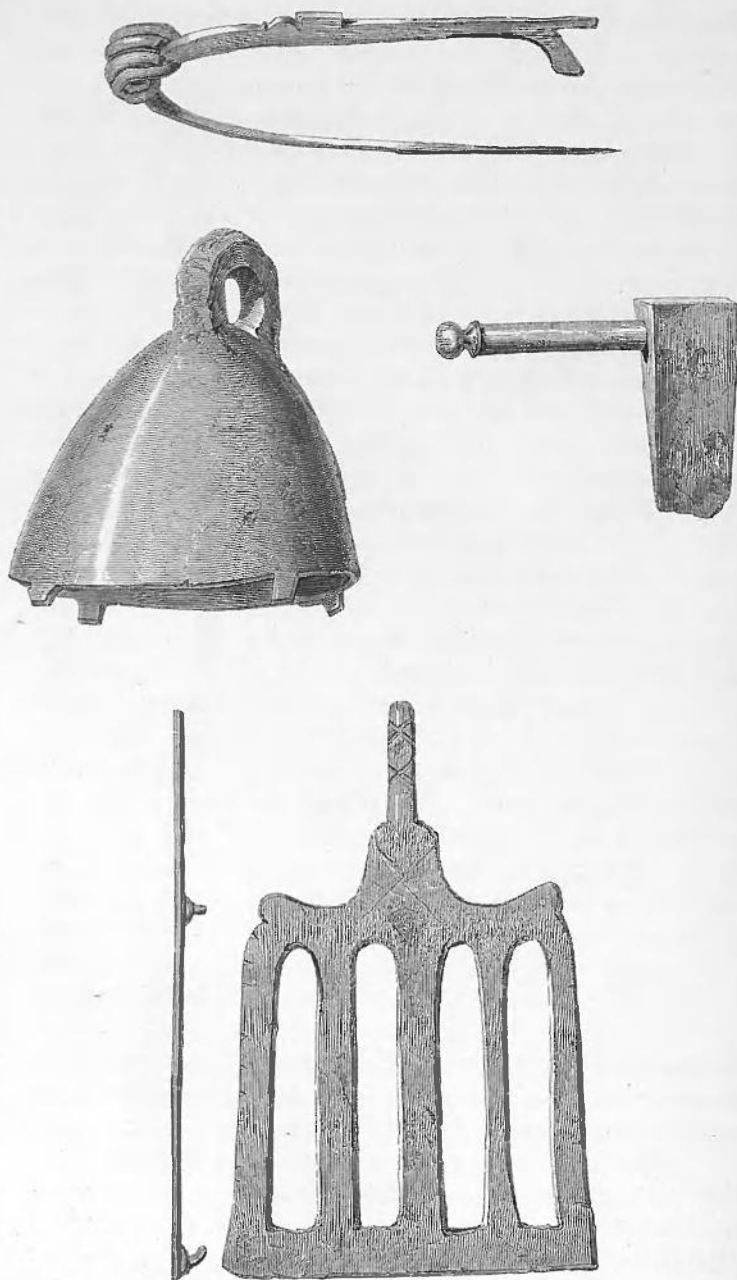
⁸ "Neither can I bring myself to agree

with Mr. Leman, in placing *Vindomis* near Andover, on the way to Salisbury, only because it lies wide of Winchester, but because there is every reason to believe that the Port-way, or Salisbury road, was not at that period in existence, for the Itineraries uniformly make the road to Salisbury pass through Winchester." (*Anonymous Obs. Rom. Roads*, &c., p. 30.)

may be feared, irrecoverably dispersed. Three inscriptions only appear to have been found; one given by Camden, the sepulchral memorial of Flavia Victorina, seen by him in Lord Burghley's garden, in London, and subsequently noticed by Horsley as preserved at Conington. (*Brit. Rom.*, pl. 75, p. 332.) It does not appear to have been removed thence, with other inscriptions, now at Trinity College, Cambridge. The second referred to in the foregoing observations, the dedication of a Temple, as supposed, to Hercules, was found about 1744, and formed the subject of a memoir by Professor Ward, in the *Philosophical Transactions* (vol. xliii., p. 200). A bronze frame, in which this tablet had been affixed, was subsequently brought to light, and both of these interesting relics came into the possession of Dr. Mead; they afterwards passed into the collection of Mr. Foote, Rector of Yoxal, and thence into that of Mr. Duane. In the "*Monumenta Historica*," this inscription is given (No. 121 a.), but it is not stated where the tablet is now preserved. The third, described by Gough (as above, p. 205,) and stated, on the authority of Mr. Ward, to exist at Trinity College, Cambridge, was found in 1732; it is supposed to refer either to Julia Domna, wife of Severus, or to Julia Mammea. (See also *Archæol.*, vol. xxvii., pl. 32, p. 417.)

Mr. Barton, the present occupant of the site of Silchester, and who resides at the Manor House, within the area of the city, has, with very praiseworthy care, preserved a considerable collection of coins and ancient relics of various kinds, there brought to light. They were, by his kindness, submitted to the examination of the members of the Institute, who were received by him in the most obliging manner, on the occasion of their visit to Silchester, June 22, 1850, during the Oxford Meeting. We have to acknowledge our obligations to Mr. D. J. Maclauchlan for the communication of several drawings, representing ancient objects of the Roman period, now in Mr. Barton's possession, as also for the enumeration of his coins, discovered at Silchester. The list comprises Vespasian, Domitian, Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Faustina, Marcus Aurelius, Commodus, Severus, Julia Domna, Caracalla, Valerian, Gallienus, Salonina, Tetricus, father and son, Carausius (several, one with *REV. ROMA AETER.*), Allectus, Licinius, Valens, Constantine, Magnentius, and Honorius, (A.D. 395—423.) A few Roman

ANTIQUITIES FOUND AT SILCHESTER.

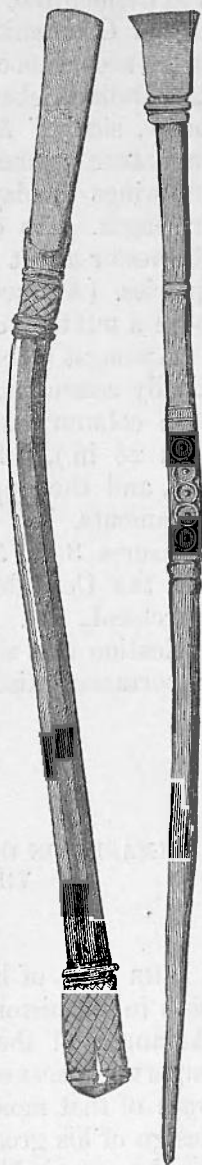


In the possession of Mr. Barton. (Orig. size.)

gold coins have occurred at Silchester. An *aureus* of Valens is in Mr. Barton's cabinet. One of Arcadius was found in 1791, and is figured *Gent. Mag.*, June, 1792, p. 529. A rare *aureus* of Allectus, and one of Valentinian, have also been found.

We do not find in Mr. Barton's interesting little museum any ancient relics formed of the precious metals, such as the curious gold ring, found in ploughing at Silchester in 1785, bearing an antique head, inscribed VENVS, and the words SENICIANE VIVAS HINDE (*sic*) *Archæol.*, viii., p. 449. Objects of such intrinsic value are rare, but he is in possession of several fibulæ, armlets, and other ornaments of bronze of various kinds. By Mr. D. Maclauchlan's kindness, we are enabled to give representations of a few of them. They comprise a bronze *stylus*, and a *ligula* or probe, similar to that figured in Mr. Lee's representation of Roman relics from Caerleon, in this *Journal* (*ante*, p. 160). Also a bronze key, adjusted so as to be worn as a finger-ring; a variety of the *clavis Laconica*. Such rings have repeatedly been found on Roman sites. Van Rymsdyk has given one, found at Verulam, in his "Museum Britannicum," tab. vii.; and a good specimen, disinterred at Chesterford in 1847, is in the Hon. Richard Neville's Museum at Audley End. Another may be seen figured in the "Museum Kircherianum," tab. liv. The accompanying woodcuts represent a fibula of unusually slender fashion, a small bell, a curious little object in the form of an axe (*securicula*), possibly a child's toy, and a singular relic, like a miniature gridiron, with three diminutive projections, or feet on one side; it appears to have been adjusted to a handle, of wood possibly, or bone, but its use has not been ascertained.

All these are of bronze, and the representations are of the same size as the originals. It may deserve notice that the



Bronze *stylus* and *ligula*.
Silchester. (Orig. size.)

double axe occurs amongst the various *crepundia* attached to a band worn over the shoulder on a statue in the Museo Pio Clementino, as shown by Mr. Rich in his useful "Illustrated Companion to the Latin Dictionary," p. 214. This is in accordance with the observation of Plautus,—“Porro crepundia solebant esse annuli, ensiculi, *securiculæ*, maniculæ, bullæ, siculæ,” &c. There are also in Mr. Barton's cabinet miniature figures of a lion, a wolf, (?) and an eagle with its wings displayed; the last measuring about two inches in length. An eagle, described as of steel, was dug up at Silchester about 1788, and exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries. (*Archæol.*, ix., p. 370.) It was supposed to have been a military ensign.

Amongst the relics of which Mr. D. Maclauchlan has kindly communicated sketches, must also be noticed the base of a column (diam. and height 22 in., diam. of base-mouldings 28 in.), a fragment of a shaft (height 45 in., diam. 14 in.), and the upper portion of a capital, with bold foliated ornaments, but much defaced. Its greatest width, at top, measures 3 ft. 5 in. This is probably the same fragment “of the Corinthian order” noticed by Dr. Beeke in 1804 (*Archæol.*, vol. xv., p. 184), and it is interesting as the indication that some architectural monument, of no ordinary importance, existed at *Calleva*.

A. W.

REMARKS ON ONE OF THE GREAT SEALS OF EDWARD THE THIRD, HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED.

BY THE REV. W. H. GUNNER, M.A.

THE reign of Edward III. is a period of great importance, both in an historical, and artistic point of view, as regards the annals of the great seal of England. It is historically important because some of the principal events in the French wars of that monarch were followed by an alteration in the design of his great seal. On this point we refer our readers to the very able and lucid notice of the great seals of England, and especially those of Edward III., by the learned Professor Willis, in the Second Vol. of this Journal. It is there stated that Edward III., at various periods of his reign,