

## ROMAN ROADS, ETC. IN SURREY.

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NOT long after the constitution of our Society the late Mr. Godwin-Austen said to me, "One of the objects of the Society ought to be to search out, and lay down a map of the Roman roads and places in our county;" and he proceeded to give an outline of the method to be pursued with this view; and he ended by asking if I would undertake to do something in this way. Without giving any such undertaking, I did, however, procure several yards of tracing cloth, and formed a map of about two yards square, on which I traced off, from the Ordnance Map, the Surrey and Sussex "Stane Street," so far as I could then ascertain it; the Watling Street, the Devil's Highway, and some few other tracks which I found laid down; and also certain churches, and other objects and names, as landmarks for laying down other ways and discoveries as and when ascertained; but at that period I had little leisure for such studies and investigations, and consequently not much progress was made with the map. But now I have more time, and have made some progress in obtaining and digesting information, I am unhappily unable to see to trace off what I want shown on the map; I have therefore handed it over to the Surrey County Club, at Guildford (who have expressed a desire for such things), where, perhaps, Colonel Godwin-Austen and Mr. Ralph Nevill, who are both members of the Club as well as of the council of our Society, and are well up in these matters, will see it continued to be posted up with any fresh discoveries, and by this means a full and accessible and reliable map will in time be formed.

I now propose to describe here shortly (in words) what I have been able to collect relative to these matters in our county; beginning with the well-known "Stane

Street." This enters the county at Rowhook, and runs through farms, where it is easily traced, straight to Stone Street, Ockley, and then through farms to near Dorking Holmwood, below Anstey-bury Camp. From here I was long under the impression that the main road went on to Betchworth Castle and up the hill, and over Walton Heath (where, in July 1856, I was one of the working party who uncovered a Roman villa there, as described in Vol. II of our *Collections*), and so on by Borough Street to Carshalton; but I have since seen reason to doubt this being its main course. However, a branch (if not the main) certainly ran on to Dorking by Folly Farm (and it is curious, and wants inquiring into, how often the name "Folly," as well as the name "Honey," which is found at Rowhook, are found on the courses of Roman Ways). The farm-house appears to stand on the road; and many years ago I went and looked at a place, near the Windmill Inn and the Hollow Way at Dorking, where a new bank and ditch had been made in the previous winter, and the Way had been cut through; and I found, as I was told, the stoned way, 18ft. wide, a few inches under the surface. In the town a piece is shown at the bottom of a garden in South Street, with fir trees planted along its sides; and its course is said to have been through the churchyard; and I have been hitherto under impression that it went on in a straight line to Westhumble Street, past Chapel Farm up the hill to Norbury, where I cannot help thinking there ought to be found a large camp, or settlement of some kind, from as well the great road from London by Balham, Mordon, Ewell, Epsom, and Ashted, as also this road, pointing straight to that spot. But lately I have met with, in the *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, 2nd Ser., Vol. I, 311 (1861), a statement, in a paper on Ewell, by C. Warne, Esq., F.S.A., of his having traced out what he called the Stane Street from the Dorking locality to Epsom Downs.

But I must first refer to a paper of mine printed in the *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, Vol. XXXIV (1886), where (p. 240) I lay down a Way which I consider an ancient British Way, probably adopted and used by the Romans, from

Otterbourne (Vindocladia), past Bramdean to Woolmer (Clausentum), Beacon Hill, Churt, where is a large Roman camp, Wheeler Street, Thorncomb Street, past Birtley to Farley Heath (Neomagus), Wotton, Westcot Street, past Dorking, and onwards into Kent. Between Thorncomb Street and Birtley, there is, in a field near this track, a pit, overgrown with timber and bushes, called the 'Danes Hole.' I have often wondered how it could have obtained this name; but if, as I surmise, there were an old Roman or British Way past this spot, it may be easily conceived that the Danes, in some of their roving marches, may have had need to use it for some purpose, which caused it to receive this name.

And here I must take up Mr. Warne's Way, and say that I think the Stane Street, so far as (new) made by the Romans, came only to Dorking, where it ran into and joined this ancient British Way (somewhere between Dorking and Westhumble Street), which was then straightened and improved (as we shall see presently) by the Romans thenceforward in its course.

Mr. Warne says he began at the foot of Box Hill, where the Burford Bridge Inn stands on its line (I imagine he means the bridge and not the inn), and a portion of the Via may be seen in a meadow near the turnpike-road (I have often noticed this causeway in the meadow, and considered it to be a disused carriage-drive to Norbury Park). After being lost sight of, it can be taken up again near Juniper Hall, and can be followed up the side of the hill in a straight line on to Mickleham Downs, where it is well defined as a raised causeway, and makes an abrupt turn to avoid an obstruction; and then unites with (N.B.) a British track-way; but on Leatherhead Downs the two are seen running side by side, yet distinct (confirmatory of my theory). It then enters Pebble Lane, and onwards to the east side of Woodcote Park to the north-east corner, and not far from the Rubbing House, but here he loses all trace of it, although sought for diligently on Epsom and Banstead Downs and Epsom Common field. He then shifts to Ewell (where I suspect he wanted to find the continua-

tion), and was much gratified at beholding, near the railway bridge, the "Stane Street" lying prominently conspicuous, adhering to its usual straight line (but he forgets the interval between this and the Rubbing House). He concludes by assuming that the modern turnpike-road has taken the course of the ancient Stane Street, itself occupying the line of a still earlier British track-way. But here I must differ from him as to "Stane Street"; for it will be seen by a glance at the map, that at Ewell he picked up, not the Stane Street, but the line of road I have just indicated as coming from London, through Ewell, and pointing straight to Norbury Park (of which more presently).

With the additional light afforded by Mr. Warne's Survey, and notwithstanding his conclusions, I am still disposed to think that this so-called Stane Street and British Way did run to Carshalton over Banstead Downs; for, taking it up at the Rubbing House, it may be seen that the line points much more towards Carshalton than towards Ewell; and as he says it was originally British, and all British track-ways were not remarkable for being straight, unless straightened by the Romans, it may have run more likely to that locality than to Ewell.

I have elsewhere (in my Sussex paper before mentioned) expressed my belief that Carshalton, Wallington, and Beddington, are the site of "Noviomagus," from the hundred being named after the ancient and Domesday name of "Aulton," *unde* Aul-ington, Wallington, or (in Domesday) Waleton; and it is remarkable to what a considerable district around, the names of these ancient places extend to give designations to other localities (as here, to Walton-on-the-Hill and Walton Downs), many miles off; and, in another instance, to Horne, Copthorne, Imberhorne, Ipthorne, named from "Orma," or Horne Castle, or Thunderfield Castle, near Horley, visited by this Society in 1877.

Mr. Boulton, in an article on the syllable "ing" in the names of places, in the *Antiquarian Magazine*, No. 6, for June, 1882, says, "Every good man and true had to

present himself at stated periods in some 'moot,' 'thing,' or 'law'; and if absent was liable to fine or punishment"; and arguing from finding East Centingas (Kentingas) and West Centingas, that the "Thing" was the place at which the men of each division had to appear periodically, he concludes that "ing" is Thing abbreviated; so that it would stand, East or West Centingas, *i.e.*, Kent-Thing-men. From this it may be urged that Wallington is Aul-thing-ton, *i.e.*, the place where the Aulton-thing or assembly was held; and if so, it is easy to understand how it became and continues the name of the hundred. And in further confirmation, Mr. Kemble speaks of Thunderfield Common as one of the places where the Gemot (alias Moot or Thing) was held. Here then, the Orma or Horne-thing was held.

From the Rubbing House the Via would appear to have run forward to some tumuli, shown on the Ordnance Map, and past Barrow Hedges, to Carshalton and Wallington; and it may be seen, by inspecting the map, that this line is in accordance with that which I have here pointed out as leading from Hampshire, and by which some of the leading Romano-British places in the south of England are brought into immediate line and contact, *viz.*, Vagniacæ (Southfleet), Noviomagus (Carshalton), Neomagus (Farley Heath), Clausentum (Woolmer), and Vindocladia (Otterbourne), Durnovaria (Nutshalling), Moridunum (Wareham), and Isca Dum-morum (Dorchester); and it is easy to imagine that when once Saxons or Danes (but probably the latter) got upon this Way, they would march on and destroy every place along it on their route, which may account for the total destruction and disappearance of Otterbourne, Brandean, Woolmer, Farley, and Wallington. From Carshalton, the so-called Stane Street would run on through Streatham (the apparent meeting-place of most Ways from Kent, Sussex, and Hants), straight to London.

And now as to the road which Mr. Warne found at Ewell, "lying prominently conspicuous, adhering to its usual straight line." It will be seen by the map that

this road lies in a straight line from London, through Ewell and Epsom, down to Ashtead. This is clearly the road I have already mentioned as pointing from London to Norbury, and that it is Roman may be inferred from its straightness; and I also find on a map of Surrey, near Pylford Bridge, south of Mordon, the word "Steining" at the side of the road. At Ashtead the road bends westward, and portions of bye-roads can be pieced together in a straight line through Fetcham to Effingham, continuing onwards by portions of road through the Horsleys and Mer-row to Guildford, and thence it would continue by the Hog's Back to Venta Belgarum, which I say is at Ewshot.

There is another reason for thinking that the road traced up to the Rubbing House is not the same as that found by Mr. Warne at Ewell. Not many weeks ago, I saw in the newspapers that some skeletons had been found at Ashtead, and mention was made of a Roman road near, which induced me to make inquiry, and I found that there is a road called Roman, running from Ashtead to Epsom, as I understand, between Woodcut Park and Durdans, which is evidently a junction of the (so-called) Stane Street with the other road through Ewell and Mordon. Now, if this be so, it is not likely there would be another communication between the two roads from the Rubbing House, as Mr. Warne surmised; and, as he clearly traced his road to that point, it is more probable it ran on in the direction I point out, to Carshalton and Wallington.

It is notable that Effingham has always been a place of some importance. It gave name (apparently) to the hundred, although the Domesday name of "Fingeham" differs somewhat from Epingham, which appears as the name of the manor; and in Surrey the names of the manors and parishes are for the most part identical. It also gives name to one of our oldest peerages—Howard of Effingham; and Manning (II, 708), mentions a tradition, that at Effingham there were sixteen churches—but this must apply to the hundred—it nevertheless shows the former importance of the district.

In reference to this importance, I will here mention a surmise which has occurred to me. Those who were at the Summer Meeting of the Society in 1884, will remember, at Fetcham Church, a beautiful little red-brick arch, evidently Roman, found, and left exposed to view by the restorers; at times I have wondered what this arch could be or have possibly belonged to, and the only conclusion I can come to is, that it was part of a Roman basilica or hall of justice, or Christian church in basilica form. These basilicas have been described as having rows of clerestory windows, like our cathedrals and some churches, and this little arch has just the appearance of such a window: and I arrive at this conclusion by supposing a considerable Roman, or Romanised British town, to have existed somewhere in this very desirable and likely open country about Fetcham, Bookham, or Effingham, and it would no doubt be provided with its hall of justice or, after the conversion of the Empire to Christianity, its church; and this hall or church might (not unlikely) be the only building *not* composed of timber or other combustible or perishable materials. Well then, supposing such to have been the case, this town may have been destroyed by fire—1, in the wars and rebellions in Roman times; 2, by the Saxons in their wars with the Britons; or 3, by the marauding Danes; and in either case it would be at a very early date, and this might be the only building of which any remains would survive; and the ruin would remain *in statu quo* until some Norman or early English builder wanted to erect a church, and then, finding this ruin, it might have been utilized for the purpose. There is no mention in Domesday of a church at Fetcham.

It will be called to mind that the arch is too low down in the wall of the church for a clerestory window, but this may readily be accounted for by supposing that the interior area of the building was partially filled up by the débris of its destruction, and overgrown by centuries of vegetation before it was again utilized, and so the arch has assumed a lower place in respect of the level of the floor of the present church, and the church itself

stands on ground higher than the surrounding level. Excavations around it might reveal some remains now little dreamt of.

It is remarkable that Leatherhead is not mentioned in Domesday, unless under the name of "Leret" in Copedorne Hundred, where it is said "The King holds Ewell in demesne," and "To this Manor adjoins (adjacet) the Church of Leret, with 40 acres of Land, value 20s. Osbern of Ow holds it." Now the Domesday Manor of Leatherhead was evidently Thorncroft, held by Richard of Tonbridge in demesne. But it will be remembered that at the Leatherhead meeting it was mentioned that, on some occasion after the Church of Leatherhead had been built by someone, the king claimed and presented to it. This may have been a stretch of royal prerogative (not uncommon in former times), taking his neighbour's land and the church he had built on it, but it tends to show that the Church of Leret, which adjoined the King's Manor of Ewell, may be the Church of Leatherhead, about which there had been some question.

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From Rowhook runs another Way, traced out by Mr. J. P. Harrison, and described in our *Collections*, Vol. VI, p. 1, by Sunsbury, Ewhurst Green, Mayor House, to Farley Heath (which I consider to be Neomagus, of Ptolemy), and thence probably by Stonebridge and Puttenham to Cæsar's Camp and Ewshot (which I consider to be Venta Belgarum).

A Way, coming from Henley Hill, near Midhurst, past North Chapel (where at Piper's Bridge, in a wood, on clay soil, is a large and very perfect round camp), Plaistow, Hook Street (near which is a small square camp on the border of the county), and Rudgwick to Rowhook, seems to continue onwards to Rome Farm, Ley Street, or Horne Castle, alias Thunderfield, by Stone House to Godstone, or perhaps Lingfield.

A Way from the south entered Surrey, near East

Grinsted, and ran by Godstone and Croydon to Streat-ham. In the *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, IV, 217, Mr. G. Leveson-Gower says there was an ascertained Roman road from Newhaven, through Lindfield to Godstone.

A Way out of Kent seems to have run into the above, about Blindley Heath, through Plester Street and Lingfield.

In connection with Ewshot, I may take up the Way surveyed by the Sandhurst students from Staines to Duke's Hill, near Bagshot, in this county, and also near Rapley's Farm, where Roman remains have been found; which, by the name of the Devil's Highway, is continued on through Hants to Bedwin and Bath, on the south side of the Kennet River, as the Way by Marlborough runs on the north side; and if, as I believe, Ewshot (Ushot) be the site of Venta (Uenta), then it is very probable there would be a line of way from Duke's Hill, by way of Farnborough, to Ewshot; but as this has never been suspected, no notice has been taken of any indications of such a Way which may have been turned up in cutting the various railways across this district, nor otherwise. Mr. Lefroy's find of coins in 1828 was just on this line, and is noted on the six-inch Ordnance Map.

In the *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, Vol. IV, 282, I find some remarks of the late Rev. Charles Kingsley of Eversley, in 1859, on certain traces of the Romans in the district of Bagshot Sands. After referring to a communication to that Society in 1855, by G. Daniel, Esq., he says, "he has a few facts to offer in corroboration of part of Mr. Daniel's theory; first, he wished to point out the line of the Roman road running straight from some point near Weybridge to Silchester, in Hants (Calleva Atrebatum?)"—he queries this. He then says, "This road runs certainly through Duke's Hill, the north part of Bagshot Park, over Easthampstead Plain, along the Devil's Highway, over Finchhampstead Ridges and Farley Hill. Hitherto, at all points known to me, it has run along the most elevated ridges of the bare and barren Bagshot sand formation, having clays right and left of it, which I believe to have been once covered

with deep oak forest. At Long Cross it passes, as far as I can discover, about a mile south of the large quadrangular entrenchment near Broomhill Hut and Potnalls (mentioned by Mr. Daniel); at Easthampstead, certainly about a mile south of the noble 'Cæsar's Camp' of the peasantry (seemingly unknown to Mr. Daniel), on the highest point of Chobham Ridges; at Finchhampstead, through a quadrangular scarpèd fort, on which Finchhampstead Church stands; and then close to a quadrangular area in a ploughed field, plainly the mark of a villa or other Roman building, from the abundance of Roman bricks and pottery. This area, I hope, will be shortly excavated. The road has all but vanished, owing to the absence of stone in its composition. Wherever we can find the materials, they are large fresh flints from the chalk, distant north 10 miles, and bricks, many of them hollow for drains. At Farley (Fawley) Hill it leaves the ancient forest of Windsor, and dips at Swallowfield into the low London clays of the forest of Pamber, through which it runs to Silchester, through land which is still one all but continuous oak wood.

“I have said that from the point where this road leaves the alluvial gravel of the Thames—say near Botley's Park and Gracious Pond—it had once an oak forest right and left of it. My belief is, with Mr. Daniel, that this was burnt off at some very early period. For several miles this road runs along Finchhampstead Ridges, commanding the Vale of Blackwater; and in the peaty alluvial flat of the river, as well as in the bogs which run up from it through my parish of Eversley into Hartford Bridge flat, logs of wood are still found in a state indicating rather the action of fire than that of the tannin of an average bog. But the most striking mark of fire is to be found in the burnt and split flint fragments which abound in all the upper levels, and are never found but on the surface.

“It seems to me that whosoever constructed the road from Weybridge to Silchester, along the ridges of the Bagshot sands, and upon open heather moor, would

have burnt, for self defence, the clay forests, right and left; viz., first those of Virginia Water and Sunning Hill on the north, and those of Chobham and Bisley on the south; and after he had extended his road past Easthampstead Camp, he would have needed likewise to burn those of Wokingham, Barkham, and Swallowfield (still dense oak woodlands) on the north, and the Vale of Blackwater (fifty years ago scarcely less dense) on the south. Beyond that point I can say nothing. The road through Pamber Forest is now all but obliterated by miles of oak. Mr. Daniel mentions the earthwork on St. George's Hill at Weybridge, and that of Cæsar's Camp at Farnham. The latter is one of the finest military positions in the south of England; the former (though of almost too irregular form to be Roman) most important, as it commands two valleys, that of the Wey and the Mole, on a narrow neck of land between which it stands. A line drawn through these two camps would strike on Winchester, *viâ* Alton and Alresford, and probably may mark the line of a Roman road which joined that from Silchester, near St. George's Hill.

"Be that as it may, I cannot doubt that the two 'Cæsar's Camps' of Easthampstead and Farnham were connected with each other. Placed at the two opposite extremities of that highest range of the upper Bagshot Sands, known by the general name of Chobham Ridges, they evidently bore some definite relation to that ridge."

I have given this extract in considerable extent, from such a writer, who knew the country so well, for the information and use of those who may otherwise never see his remarks; and I will only remark upon the roads he points out as once existing.

First, it is well known that the Sandhurst cadets traced the continuation of the Devil's Highway from Duke's Hill to Staines Bridge. But it is quite possible that the Romans had an alternate or second Way, from Duke's Hill by way of Weybridge, St. George's Hill, and Kingston, so as to have a road on either side of the Thames.

As regards the Devil's Highway, I am glad to have found this description of it, but (although it is travelling out of the county), I must differ from Mr. Kingsley, when he says it runs to Silchester, for I believe the road through Silchester is merely a branch made out from the *original* Way at Farley or Fawley Hill, as he says (when Caer Segont, after the destruction of Calleva, was fortified and made the capital of the Roman Province, with the name of Arda-Oneon), and into it again at Abel Bridge, as may be readily seen by a glance at the six-inch Ordnance Map.

No doubt a line from St. George's Camp to Farnham Camp, viâ Alton and Alresford, would strike nearly on Winchester; and my theory is, that Iter XV of Antoninus (reversed) took this line, not exactly from Winchester, but from Otterbourne (Vindocladia), past Alresford (Sorbiadunum) and Alton (Brigæ) to Ewshot (Ushot), (Uenta Belgarum), and that Farnham Camp was the summer camp of Uenta; and this line may have continued onwards to join the Way (if any) from Duke's Hill to Weybridge, about Chobham, or perhaps Duke's Hill, so as to run direct to Staines Bridge. The East-hampstead Camp (which I consider to be "Armæ," *unde* Armastead, Ampstead, Hampstead) was no doubt, as suggested by Canon Kingsley, joined to Uenta by a road which has yet to be explored.

Those who wish to know more about Noviomagus, Orma, Venta Belgarum, Armæ, Arda-Oneon, &c., can refer to my observations on the Ravennas in Vol. XXXIV of *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, already referred to, 243—251.

I must not forget a small section of our county over which I think it has not before been suggested that the Emperor Hadrian passed in Iter II of Antoninus, from the Great Wall to Richborough. It has been hitherto assumed, that from London to Rochester was travelled entirely within the county of Kent. But as I contend that Noviomagus was at Carshalton or Wallington, in Surrey, it will be found that the distance from London will agree very well with the distance from London to

Noviomagus in Iter II, and from this place to Southfleet and Rochester, the distances will also agree with Antoninus from Noviomagus to Vagniacæ, and Durobrivis. Iters III and IV go at once from London to Rochester, apparently not touching Vagniacæ. There would appear to have been several lines of way between Rochester and Dartford. It may therefore be assumed that the two latter journeys from London were by a different road—not touching Vagniacæ—and, if there were these differing lines of way, it is not improbable that these older lines were afterwards straightened by the present line between Rochester and Dartford.

The Rev. T. Reynolds, in his “*Iter Britanniarum*” (1799), (Intro. 67), in treating of the Watling Street, says “Two other streets, Home Street and Broad Street, occur in the road between Stroud and the Nore; but this short stage will perhaps be found a part of a long branch of the Ryknild Street, which may come from Winchester across the county of Surrey, by Wanborough, from Farnham to Guildford, through Westcot Street to Dorking, through Ryegate by Lingfield Street, and Grub Street to Westerham, and from thence through Wrotham and Stroud, concluded at the Nore.” In another place (p. 22) he speaks of the Ryknild Street, from Winchester to Cirencester. At p. 79 he says, “The first grand line of the Ryknild Street appears in Hampshire, taking a direction northward from Winchester by Andover, and butts upon Chute Causeway as soon as it enters Wiltshire. It is called in the map by the wrong name, Ieknild Street.” He goes on to say a branch of it went to Porchester, and the main road to Chichester, the *Regnum* of Antoninus, and principal town of the British *Regni*, and adds “This city I consider as the point where this great road begins.”

With most of this I can very well agree, but certainly not with the name of “Ryknild,” which he applies to it, for I believe this latter to be most unmistakeably the *SALT WAY*. I find this name applied to it below Northleach, after it has crossed the *Fosse Way*. But perhaps he was misled by the name of Ieknild Street,

which he may have found on the map near Andover, and applied it to this road instead of the veritable Icknild Way, which I believe does come down by Weyhill (Way-hill), near Andover, and run on to Old Sarum and Dorchester, and thence, not to Totnes, Devon, but to the Toteneys Shore, *i.e.*, the Fleet Harbour and Chesil Beach at Portland.

I think it clear that the Ryknild Way ran out of Wales in a north-easterly direction, past Birmingham; and it is very unlikely that a road out of Wales ran down so low as Winchester, and then turned upwards to Farnham, to run across Surrey to Rochester and the Nore. When he wrote Winchester, he had probably Venta Belgarum in his mind's eye; and if Venta were, as I say, at Ewshot, I can very readily understand his argument that a road may have come from Venta across Surrey to the Nore, by the exact route he points out, *viz.*, Farnham, Wanborough, Guildford, Dorking, Ryegate, and so onwards into Kent.

I have been asked to say a few words more about Venta Belgarum and Clausentum, which, although not within, so immediately adjoin Surrey, in the hope that some may be stirred up to further research.

Well then, I have in several places referred to Venta as being situate at Ewshot, in the parish of Crondall. As to the name, I have lately met with a definition which seems to me extremely appropriate: Gwent is said to mean a clearing; and if so, Venta Belgarum is the "clearing" of the Belgæ; and wherever that gwent was, it was no doubt the first place settled by the Belgæ in Britain, and became afterwards their capital. If "clearing" be the true meaning of "gwent," it could scarcely have been properly applied to Winchester, which, since Camden, has been considered to be Venta; for the chalk down there could not possibly have required any clearing; but the woody locality of such a place as Ewshot would of course require clearing for a settlement. And as to this locality, in a correspondence with General Sir J. H. Lefroy, F.S.A., relative to the coins found by his brother in 1828, he stated

that individual coins are occasionally picked up all over that region; that some sixty or more years ago a Roman villa, of some pretension, was found in a field half-a-mile north-east from Crondall Church, but it was ruthlessly destroyed.

In the south part of the parish of Crondall another "Pavement" is marked on the Ordnance Map. All this seems to indicate a Roman settlement thereabouts. He also stated that the parish of Crondall was of great extent (giving its name to the hundred); and that King Edgar, A.D. 976, bestowed on the Cathedral of Winchester a grant of land, situate "loco celebre qui Crundelus noto appellatur vocabulo." (Kemble, No. DXCV.) Now what could have made Crondall a "celebrated place" at that time? I am induced from this to think that Crondall, and at Crondall Ewshot, is the site of Venta Belgarum; but the exact spot has yet to be discovered. I should be glad to search for myself, but seventy-six winters are a sad drawback to vigorous exertion. The Romans called the gwent of the Belgæ Venta, *i.e.* Uenta, Wenta, and Venta Belgarum was no doubt a *locus celebris*; the Saxons called this place U-shot (or Vshot in Speed's Map), and it lies in Crondall, and Crondall is said to be a *locus celebris*; but the reason of this celebrity has yet to be discovered, or at any rate proved.

There can be scarcely any doubt that there was a Roman or Romano-British settlement of some kind at Woolmer, and probably at Blackmoor, the seat of the Earl of Selborne, which I consider to be Clausentum; for in addition to the quantity of coins found in Woolmer Pond, in 1741, related by Gilbert White, in his *Antiquities of Selborne*, and near 30,000 coins found on his Lordship's estate some years since, I have learned from him that he has bronze swords, spear-heads, &c. &c., found just beyond the margin of his estate; and he had found in various places other articles of metal-work and pottery, some of the pottery being pre-historic British, and some of Romano-British times; and that there are within his own home grounds some banks and trenches which he and others have sometimes thought might be

perhaps the remains of ancient earthworks, though he had never been able to make out a regular plan of them corresponding with usual Roman or British fortifications.

The late Mr. H. Lawes Long, in 1836, writing of the road from London to Chichester, *viâ* Farnham and Alton, says, "In the parish of Binstead, on the borders of the Holt Forest, a stone coffin with many curious contents was found some years ago, and is still to be seen at Wheatley, at the house of Mr. Wheeler. At Wyck in the same parish the plough brought to light some traces of the substruction of a Roman villa, but the state of the field prevented any further search being made, and the secrets still remain undisclosed. On the western side of the road in the parish of Crondall, but at no great distance from Bentley, at a farm called Barley Pound (in a copse), are various earthworks of considerable extent; and in an adjoining field a Roman tessellated pavement (shown on the Ordnance Map) of much beauty was laid open about twenty years ago. One room only has been uncovered, although vestiges of foundations of a very large villa are known to spread a considerable distance."<sup>1</sup>

From Alton to Ewshot, I consider to be part of Iter XV of Antoninus, and from Chichester *viâ* Rowgate and Woolmer, I consider part of Iter VII. The latter Iter would therefore appear to run into the former somewhere about Bentley; and at Binstead and Wheatley on the line of Iter VII we find these remains; and at Barley Pound on the line of Iter XV we find earthworks and a villa; and further on, towards Crondall and Ewshot, names may be found which may very well be associated with the presence of Romans and Britons.

Is there not then, at these places, reason enough to whet the appetite for further investigation by those who have taste and opportunity for such pursuits?

The ideas of Mr. Lawes Long, a Surrey man of good judgment, who knew the country well, and could combine facts with observations, would appear better worthy

<sup>1</sup> Described by Sir R. Colt Hoare in *Archæologia*, Vol. XXII.

of attention than the ideas of other and subsequent writers who had less knowledge and opportunity of forming a correct opinion upon matters touched upon; and it is a pity his little work is not better known. I am far from saying he is everywhere correct, but combined with later discoveries his theory (especially about Silchester) seems the most reliable, reasonable, and nearest the truth that I have met with.

It was printed by Nichols and Sons, Farnham; and my copy has written at the top of the title page, "Not published."