



CELTS & ROMANS IN NORTH WILTSHIRE



Truckle Hill Roman Bath-house Teacher's Pack

This teacher's pack contains information and activities to complement the teaching of history at KS2 and KS3. It was developed from the HLF funded *Celts and Romans in North Wiltshire Project* as part of the project legacy.

This pack is supplemented by
The Mystery of the Chiseldon Cauldrons Teacher's Pack
– available from www.wessexarch.co.uk



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



 **Wessex
Archaeology**
Portway House, Old Sarum Park,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
www.wessexarch.co.uk



Truckle Hill Roman Bath-house

This teacher's pack contains information and activities to complement the teaching of History at KS2 and KS3. It was developed from the HLF funded *Romans and Celts in North Wiltshire Project* as part of the project legacy.

This pack includes

- Four posters introducing the Roman bath-house at Truckle Hill
- Instructions and worksheet for 'It is Getting Hot in Here...' – a science based activity exploring Roman heating systems
- Instructions and drawing for 'Planning for a Bath' – a numeracy based activity involving scale drawing
- 'Roman Words' worksheet – a literacy based activity exploring Latin words and their English equivalents
- Instructions and game cards for 'What is it?' – an artefact based activity to develop the teaching of history from a range of sources
- Suggestions for extension activities

Curriculum links at KS2

This pack is designed to complement National Curriculum history units 9. *Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in Britain* and, in Wiltshire, 7. *Local History Study*.

Curriculum links at KS3

This pack is designed to complement the teaching of National Curriculum history 2.1 *Historical Enquiry* and 2.2 *Using Evidence*.


Activities in this pack can be used to explore Science, Numeracy, Literacy and Art.

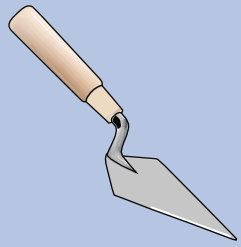
Learning Outcomes

By using this pack, pupils could explore:

- Aspects of life, society and art in Roman Britain, specifically in North Wiltshire
- Artefacts and buildings as a historical source
- Latin words and their modern equivalents

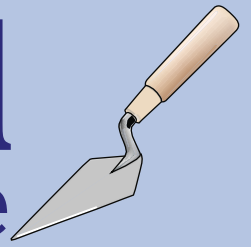
By using this pack, pupils could demonstrate:

- Artistic, scientific, numeric and observational skills
 - An understanding of materials and their properties
- 



Truckle Hill

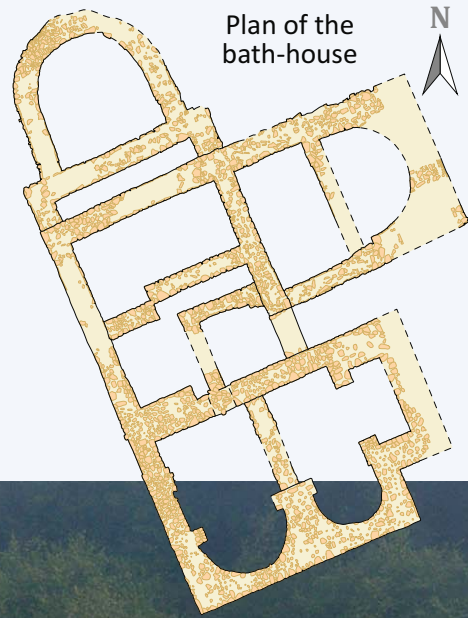
Roman Bath-house



The Site

In 2003 the remains of a building was discovered in Chantry field in North Wraxall, Wiltshire. 'Chantry' is a medieval word and was often used to describe chapels, so the foundations were thought to be medieval at first.

A local archaeologist brought the site to the attention of Wiltshire Council and English Heritage. When they investigated they realised that the building was not a medieval chapel but instead a much older Roman bath-house. Wessex Archaeology has been working with volunteers to excavate the site since 2007.



The Truckle Hill Roman bath-house is located in an area full of archaeology. Near the bath-house there is a Roman villa and the Fosse Way, a Roman road linking the South-West with the East Midlands. There are other Roman sites nearby, such as the shrines and temples at Nettleton Shrub, and evidence suggests that people lived on Truckle Hill in the Iron Age, before the Romans arrived.



Truckle Hill

Roman Bath-house



Early Buildings

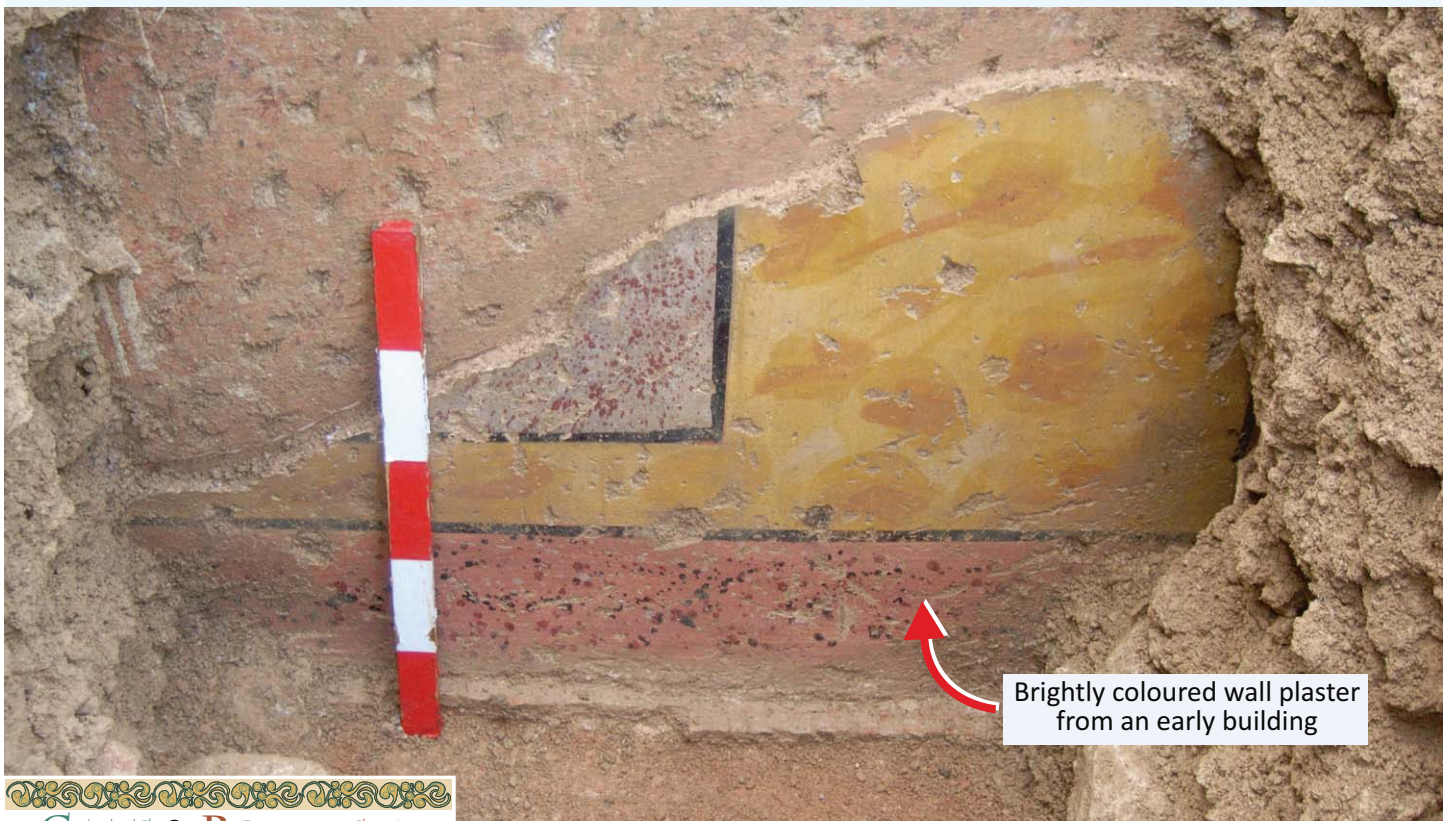


Volunteers with the base of a statue

Whilst excavating the bath-house, volunteers found two earlier buildings beneath it. In fact, our excavation has shown that this site was used for three different purposes over 250 years – from worship and bathing to drying grain.

The first building on the site had a mosaic floor, richly decorated plaster walls and a statue in a courtyard. This was destroyed by a landslide and was replaced by another, similar building.

It is possible that these earlier buildings were Roman temples, dedicated to a water nymph. Nymphs, or spirits, were related to specific places, such as streams or springs, and are common in Roman myths. If these two early buildings are *nymphaea*, or temples, then they are very special because few have been found in Britain.

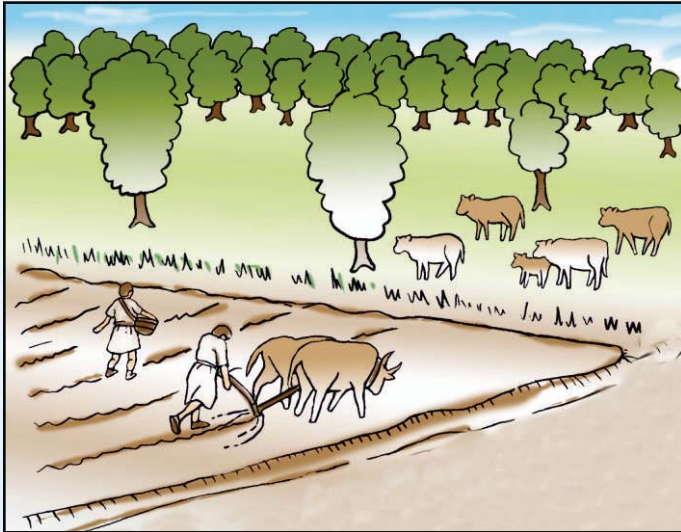


Brightly coloured wall plaster from an early building

Truckle Hill

Roman Bath-house

Later Buildings



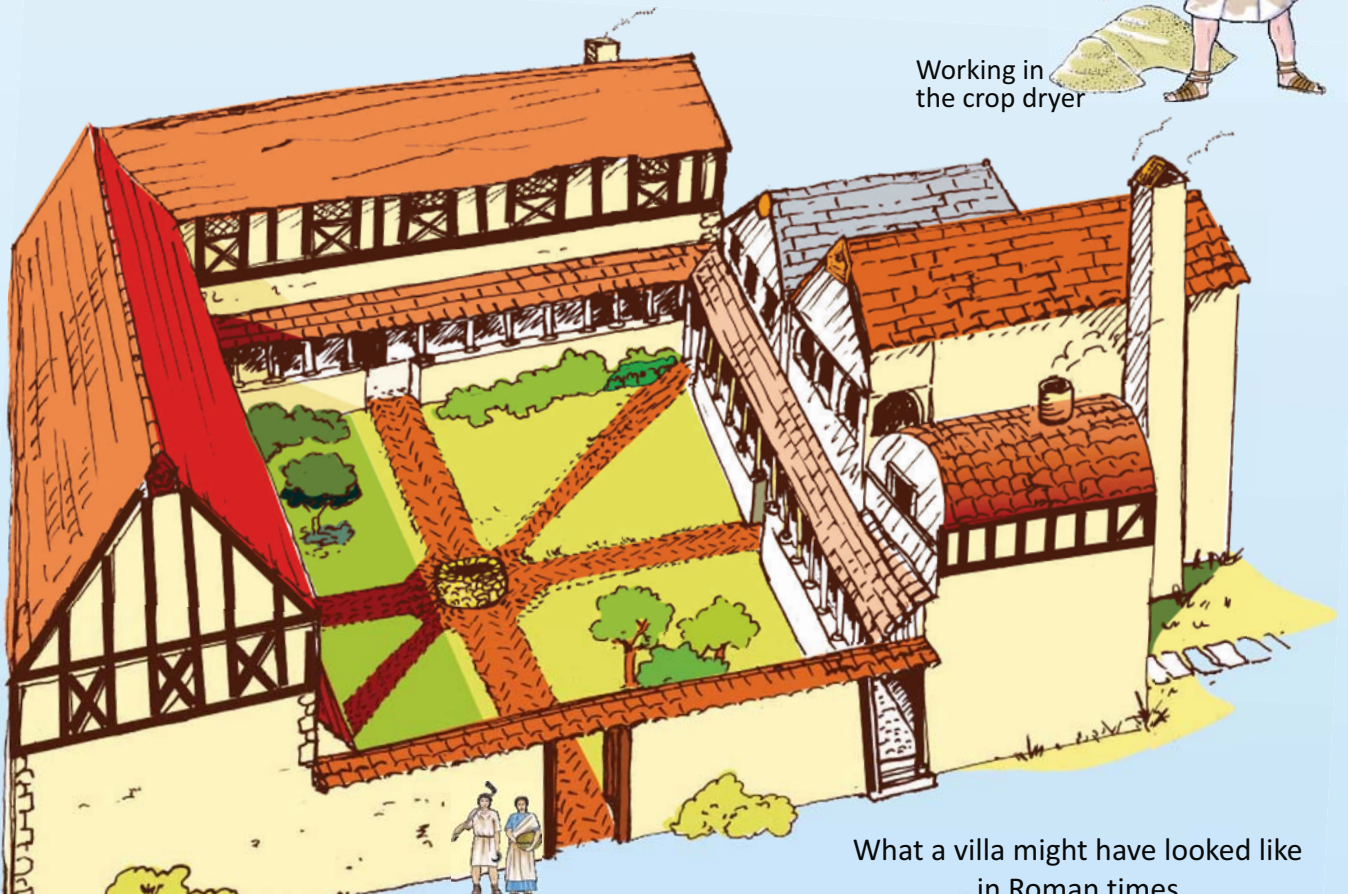
Planting crops and grazing cattle were aspects of the villa farm

At some point the earlier buildings were replaced with a large bath-house, probably by the family living in the villa at the top of Truckle Hill. In fact, our most recent excavations have revealed what appears to be a path leading away from the bath-house in the direction of the villa.

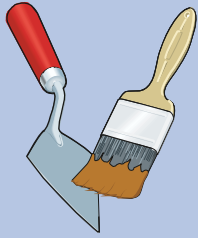
Roman villas were not simply fancy homes, but were farming estates that controlled land, employed staff and grew crops. When the Truckle Hill bath-house fell out of use a crop dryer was built inside it. This was used for drying grain, such as wheat, so that it could be threshed and ground into flour.



Working in the crop dryer

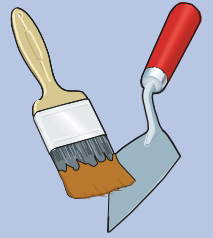


What a villa might have looked like in Roman times



Truckle Hill

Roman Bath-house



Saving the Bath-house



Wessex Archaeology has been working with local volunteers every year since 2007 to excavate the bath-house and other buildings. As soil is removed revealing more about this fascinating site, the walls are exposed to the weather for the first time in 2000 years. This could put the buildings in danger.

After each year of excavation the bath-house is protected by re-burying the walls. If they are left uncovered water gets between the stones and when winter comes and the water freezes it cracks the stone and the walls start to crumble. It is important to protect the bath-house for the future, so that we can continue to learn from the site.



Activity 1

It is Getting *Hot* in Here ...

The Romans invented underfloor heating over 2000 years ago to heat their homes. Huge fires would create hot air which passed underneath the floors of villas and bath-houses like the one at Truckle Hill. So that these heating systems, called *hypocausts*, could work efficiently the Romans had to make sure their floors were made out of a material that could conduct the heat.

Use this experiment to investigate what material would make the best floor for a Roman bath-house then research your answer to see what the Romans actually used.

Equipment

- A cardboard box with a lid
- A hairdryer
- Different materials (such as cardboard, wood, fabric and ceramic tiles)
- Copy of the worksheet from this pack
- Scissors
- Pencil or pen

Method

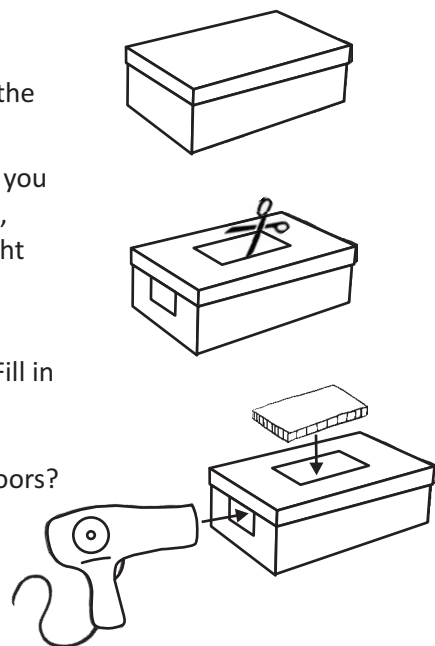
Cut a hole in the side of the box and push the end of the hairdryer into it. Use the hairdryer to blow warm air into the box. Feel the lid of the box – what happens to it?

Cut a hole in the lid of the box and replace the cardboard you remove with a different type of material. Try fabric, wood, ceramic tiles and anything else you think the Romans might have had access to.

Use the hairdryer to blow hot air into the box – feel each material with the back of your hand to see if it feels hot. Fill in the worksheet with your findings.

Which material do you think the Romans used for their floors?

This experiment should be conducted under adult supervision.



Additional activity

The Romans built their floors from layers of ceramic, concrete and ceramic tiles called *tesserae* to create mosaic patterns. Use small paper squares, permanent pens or paint to create a mosaic pattern on a ceramic tile. Think carefully about what Romans might have liked to see on their floors or do some research into the designs used for real Roman mosaics.

It is Getting *Hot* in Here ...

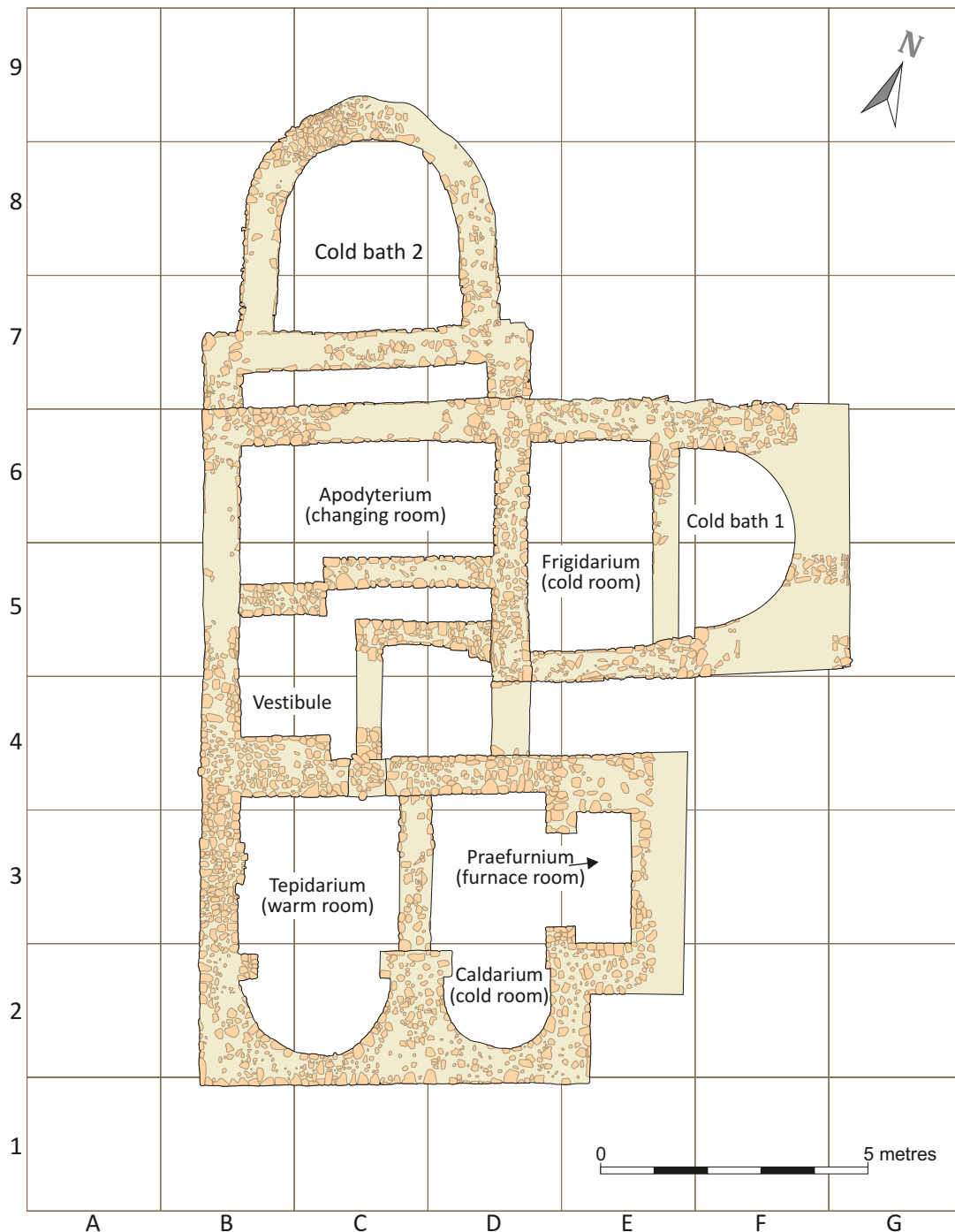
Worksheet

[illegible]

Activity 2

Planning for a Bath

This is a plan of the Roman bath-house at Truckle Hill. It was drawn by archaeologists using tape measures, waterproof graph paper and hard pencils. It was then redrawn on a computer in our office. On site, archaeologists draw buildings and other archaeological features at a scale of 1:10. Use masking tape to recreate the shape of the bath-house and the rooms within it on the floor of the school hall or playground. When your pupils have explored the rooms within the building ask them to draw it at a scale of 1:10 on graph paper.





Activity 3

Roman Words

Some of the Latin words used to name the rooms in a bath-house have given us some common English words. Look carefully at the words on the left. Their meanings, on the right, have been jumbled up:

Tepidarium

Cold room

Caldarium

Furnace room

Frigidarium

Warm room

Praefurnium

Hot room

Use the clues in these modern words to match the room with its meaning.

- Tepid** – Moderately warm
- Fridge** – A device used for keeping food cool
- Furnace** – A device used for heating
- Scald** – Burn with hot water or steam

Now research other Roman words and what they mean.



Activity 4

What is it?

Study the images of these replica Roman finds. Can you work out what they are? Tick the box with the correct answer. Research any that you cannot work out using books or the internet.



- ☐ A child's rattle
- ☐ A device for scaring crows
- ☐ A keyring



- ☐ A nose-picker
- ☐ A hook for gardening and farming
- ☐ A device for scraping off dirt and sweat



- ☐ A birdbath
- ☐ A portable toilet
- ☐ A bowl with a rough surface for grinding food



- ☐ A money pouch
- ☐ A holder for soaps
- ☐ A pomander which holds sweet smelling herbs and spices



- ☐ A Roman oil lamp
- ☐ A pot to hold scented oils
- ☐ A pot to hold earwax



- ☐ A beautiful necklace
- ☐ Windchimes
- ☐ A manicure set including an ear scoop, tweezers and a fingernail picker



- ☐ A Roman pillow
- ☐ A leather ball
- ☐ A sponge for washing



- ☐ A plate
- ☐ A wax writing tablet
- ☐ A decorative picture

Two of these are made to be used for cleaning yourself and would probably have been found in the bath-house. Which two?

What is it?

Teacher's notes



This is a child's rattle.



This is a *strigil* – a device for scraping sweat, dirt and oil off of the body in the bath-house.



This is a Roman dish called a *mortaria*. The inner surface is studded with pieces of flint and it would have been used to grind up foods, much like a pestle and mortar today.



This is a money pouch.



This is a Roman oil lamp.



This is a Roman chatelaine set. It would be worn on a belt and it consists of tweezers, a scoop for earwax and a tool for cleaning fingernails.



This is a leather ball.



This is a wax writing tablet. Once used the owner would heat it up to melt the wax and create a flat surface which could be used again.



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk

Regional offices in **Edinburgh, Rochester and Sheffield**

For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk



Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company with limited liability registered in England, No. 1712772 and VAT No. 631943833.
It is also a Registered Charity in England and Wales, No. 287786; and in Scotland, Scottish Charity No. SC042630.