

Ewell's Hinterland-

what can it tell us about rural settlement
in Roman Surrey?

Ewell Hinterland project

A joint project between Roman Studies Group and Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society

Aim- to examine and investigate the archaeological evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British sites around Ewell, a known Romano-British settlement.

Objectives:

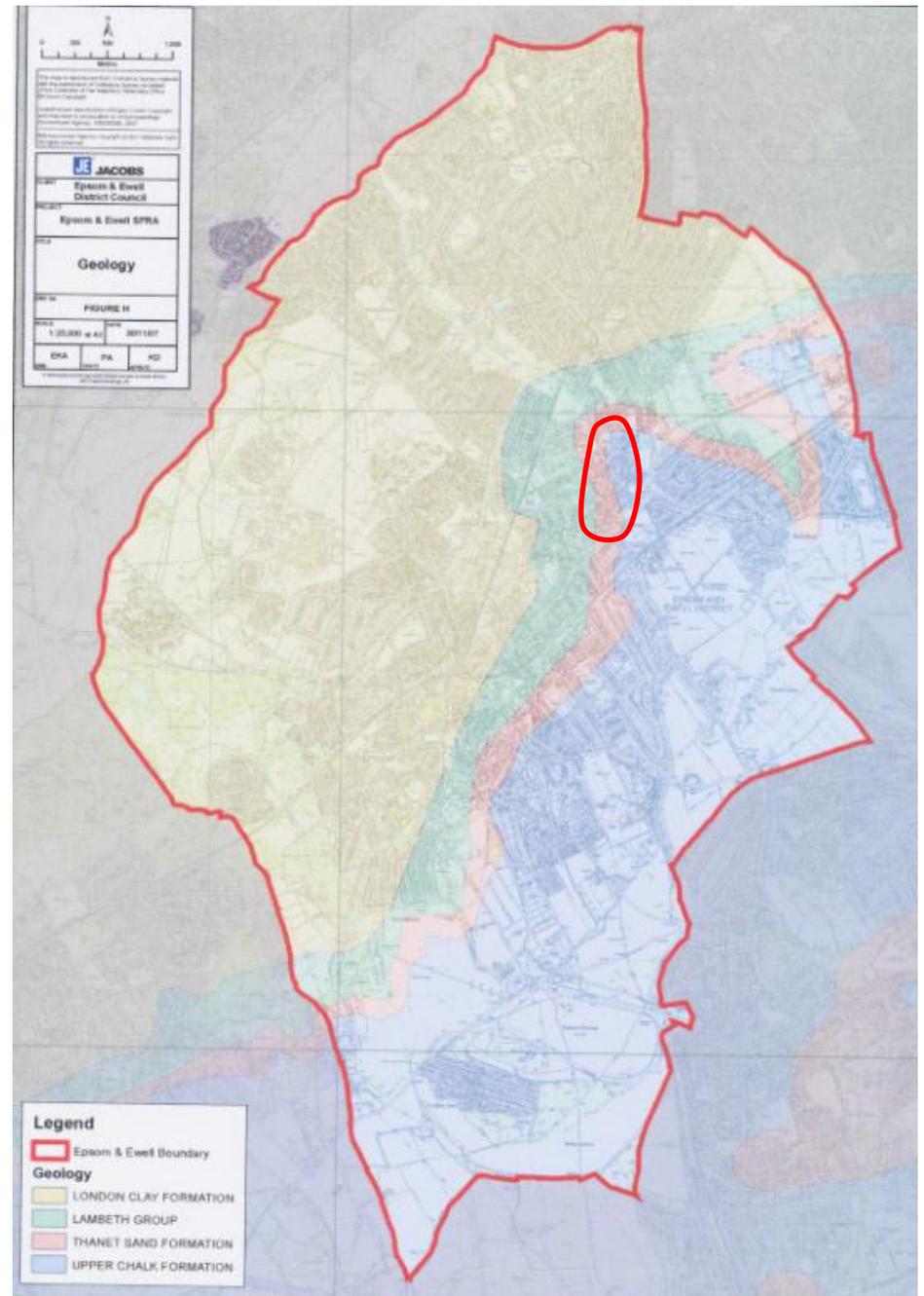
- A literature review of excavation and other reports, including the Historic Environment Records (HER).
- Re-analysis of museum paper and finds archives
- The carrying out of exploratory landscape surveys (including field-walking and geophysical surveys).
- Targeted fieldwork – arising from surveys, based on a project design.
- Ongoing publication and report back of the above work, ending in an overall publication of the results.

This project is designed to tie in with the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework, looking at rural settlement, land use and the connection between roadside settlement/ villas and the countryside

What we already know

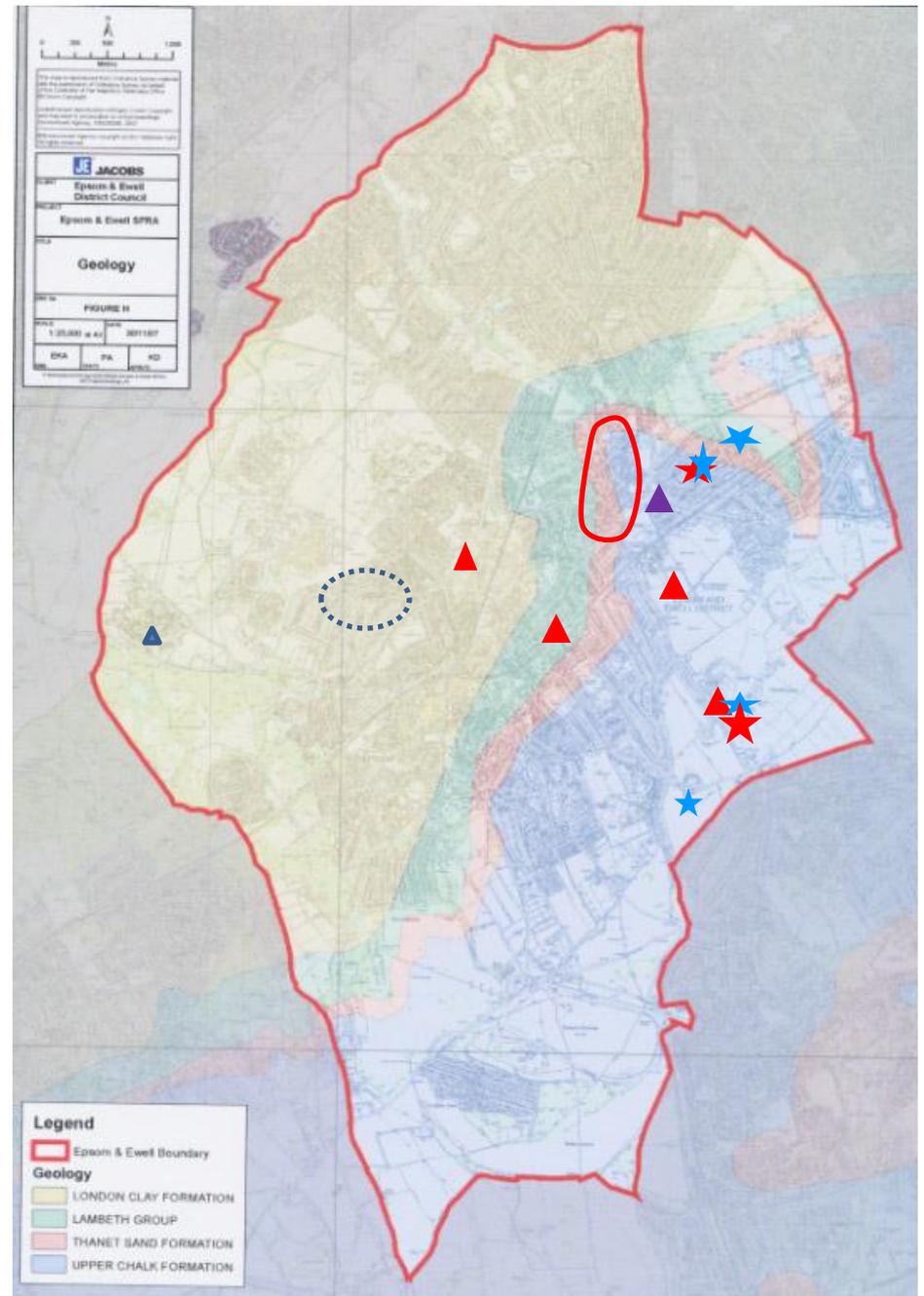
- Ewell is a known Romano-British settlement
- It lies on Stane Street and is about 12 miles south-west of London
- Is it situated at a crossroads?
- 48 R/B Historic Environment records for Epsom and Ewell
- 28 HERs from Ewell Village and 20 from Hinterland
- 14 IA HERs , of which 4 in Ewell

Geology of Epsom and Ewell



Hinterland sites in relation to geology

	Horton Tile Kiln
	Romano-British Burials
	Hatch Furlong
	Iron Age settlement
	Romano-British settlement



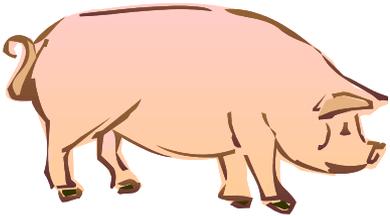
Was there a Roman villa in Epsom?

- Toland mentions Epsom Court, *"that ancient Saxon seat long since converted into a farm"* and, in Des Maizeaux's version, adds another footnote:
- *"In old writings it's likewise call'd Ebbysham-place: now only a great name and nothing more to be seen, but an oblong square area rais'd higher than the other ground on the south-east of the house. Abundance of wrought stone, of Roman bricks and tileas are often dug up about the farm and some of the fields do yet preserve the name of a Park"*.
- The implication that a Roman villa one stood in this location could be supported by a ready availability of fresh water from a stream running north of the site and featured on the earliest OS maps

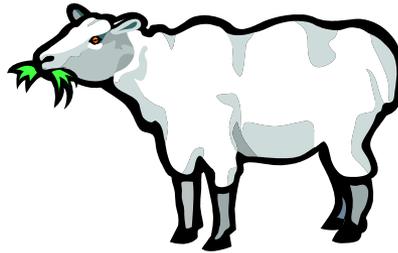
Bones

1973 report on NE corner new churchyard

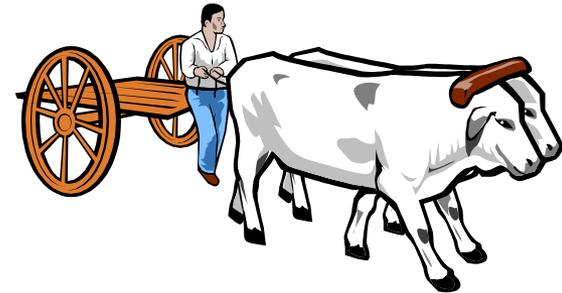
Pig 8.2%



Sheep 46.6%



Ox 35.1%



Bones from St. Mary's churchyard 1974-6

- High number of sheep on site, large number of older animals – suggests a woollen industry
- Low number of pigs in faunal record
- Generally the cattle were fairly old
- Evidence suggest local consumption of meat

Future work

- More field walking
- Magnetometry/ resistivity over Iron Age site near Epsom College
- Continuing paper- based research e.g. field names, historical maps, archives
- Locate lost artefacts