

7th March, 1972

Dear Miss Castledine,

Ball Room Down

I remember that some six or seven years ago on the occasion of road-aligning at the junction of Matling Street and Ashcroft Lane, the Ministry conducted some excavation under the supervision of a Mr. Greenfield, mainly I think in Field No. 64, diagonally opposite to Manor Farm.

I don't think this has ever been fully reported, but I wonder if it would be possible for me to have a copy of the brief summary he would have sent to you at the end of the work.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P. J. Castledine,  
Dept. of the Environment,  
Sanctuary Buildings,  
Great Smith Street,  
LONDON SW1 P 3DD

SB



**Department of the Environment**

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street London SW1 P 3DD

Telephone 222 7790 ext 732

AA Round Esq B Sc FSA  
95 Darnick Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
Staffs

Your reference

Our reference AA 90995/2  
Pt3

Date 23 March 1972

Dear Mr Round

WALL ROMAN TOWN

In reply to your letter of 7 March, I enclose a copy of Mr Greenfield's interim report on his excavation in Field 64 as requested.

I am afraid that Mr Greenfield is still working on this final report along with others and I cannot say when it will be completed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D E Castledine".

MISS D E CASTLEDINE

Wall, Staffs. Interim Report by Ernest Greenfield

Period: Romano-British

Site: The South-east exterior of the Romano-British town of Letocetum.

Parish: Shenstone.

Grid Ref. 1" O.S. Map 120.SK/103.063.

Owners: Field 64. W.J. Ryman. Field 65. F.Barker.

Threat: Proposed By-pass (A.5) to Wall village.

Duration of test-excavation: Oct.29th - 23rd Nov. 1962.

Three areas were tested, (the north and south ends of Field 64 and part of Field 65), due to be incorporated in the proposed by-pass to Wall village. The test-excavation was carried out on a 20ft grid of test-holes; some of these were expanded into trenches.

Field 64, Site A: 93 test-holes were dug. Only two holes indicated evidence of Romano-British occupation. T-Hs 1 and 2 each produced a worn grey ware rim sherd from the plough soil. The plough soil also contained Victorian and later artifacts.

Field 64, Site B: 66 test-holes were dug. It was evident from the test of this area that a spread of Romano-British occupation was concentrated at the north end of the area, limited on the north side by the fringe of Watling Street and on the west side by the outer ditch of the town defences. The evidence indicates settlement of timber structures, representing ribbon development between the town and the junction of the Watling Street and Rykniel Street, a third of a mile to the east. Between the edge of the ditch and the limit of the test on the east side, was a pebbled road, consisting of a primary and a secondary surface; the east edge of this abutted against the edge of a poorly constructed stone wall foundation on a north to south alignment; east of this was an area of silt accumulation, pebbled levels, spreads of burnt clay daub and evidence of timber structures represented by beam-slots and burnt edges of floors. A section (C-D), in Trench B showed timber beam-slots underlying the pebbled road and the stone foundation and suggests that a structure of this character is represented on an east to west alignment. The town ditch, (A-B), cut in Trench A, was cleared of its filling and two rim sherds of grey ware of 4th century date were found at 49" and 56" from plough surface. Test-hole 6 revealed a spread of burnt clay indicative of a hut floor of rectangular plan.

The greater proportion of the pottery was of 2nd century date with a few sherds (from high levels) of the 4th century. Three coins were found: two of Domitian and one of Constantinopolis.

Field 65: 118 holes were dug. 18 of these produced, from the plough soil, a scatter of fragments of yellow brick, some with a greenish-yellow glazed slag attached, together with pottery sherds (716th-18th century). Victorian to later artifacts also occurred in the plough soil.