

1552 Roman Villa at Wheatley

Sourced from Rose Robinson research at record 2815.

There are several Roman villas in the neighbourhood, of which the principal one was unearthed in 1845. These Roman villas can best be described as large country houses with farms attached, each forming a self-contained settlement.

The example at Wheatley was a luxurious mansion, probably burnt after the retreat of the Romans from Britain.

The remains consist principally of parts of the hypocaust & bath. The former had a plaster floor laid on solid flat tiles, on uniform & regularly disposed pillars, 1.10" high, also made of flat tiles, & about 16 to 18 inches distant from each other.

In the Parafermion on the west the slaves kept alight the fires, from which the heated air was led by flues, through the hypocaust, into the rooms above. On the S.W. is a furnace with a cistern above and a drain which probably took the hot water into the bath on the S.E.

The villa, after being examined, was covered over again and nothing remains to be seen today.

Mr Gale of Nuneham Courtenay has several Roman coins picked up on the Rectory Farm Wheatley, chiefly near the new Barn, in the vicinity of the site of the Roman villa.

Among them are the following with their AD years: -

Gallienus	260-268
Tetricus	267-274
Constantius	305-705
Constantine the Great	306-337
Constans	337-350
Constantius 2	337-361
Valentinian	364-375
Valens	364-378

Mr. Brown of "Windmills" -Wheatley contributes the following notes on the Roman remains found near his house: - "Then, in the year 1913, the garden of Windmills was being made, a good deal of excavation was needed to the depth of 9 or 10 ft. In the course of this work, some fragments of Roman pottery were dug

Mr. Brown of "Windmills" -Wheatley contributes the following notes on the Roman remains found near his house: - "Then, in the year 1913, the garden of Windmills was being made, a good deal of excavation was needed to the depth of 9 or 10 ft. In the course of this work, some fragments of Roman pottery were dug up which were taken to the Ashmolean Museum and recognised as belonging to the period 100 B.C. to 100 A.D. In order to preserve them, they were cemented into the wall close to the place where they were found. It is inferred that a Roman villa at one time stood on this spot."

Archaeological journal 1846. vol 1:2.