

## How to follow the Roman Town trail

The route is waymarked with the horse logo as shown.

This circular route is 2km (1.75 miles) with a short cut that takes you along The Drove which crosses the site.

The path is frequently uneven under foot. To the east by the church and the amphitheatre the trail follows the road, so please take care.

▲ Building City Wall

At selected locations there are information panels. These are shown on the map as ■

Reading Museum, in the town centre, has extensive displays about Silchester and artefacts recovered in past excavations. You can find out more at [www.readingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.readingmuseum.org.uk)

The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and is protected by law. The walls and amphitheatre are in the care of English Heritage. The interior is owned by Hampshire County Council and used for agriculture.

Please do not let your dog in with any livestock.

Also, please do not climb on the walls.

Coach parking is by appointment.

To arrange for the car park barrier to be raised, please call 01256 840483 at least a week in advance. (The car park by the church is for use of visitors to the church.)

▼ Silchester Roman City Walls



Parking at Wall Lane, Silchester P

Map not to scale

## Public Transport

**Train:** Bramley Station, Mortimer Station and Basingstoke Station

**Bus:** Stage Coach in Hampshire No 14 hourly

### Useful contacts

Traveline: 0871 200 22 33

Calls cost 10p per min plus network extras

National Rail Enquiries 08457 48 49 50

### Useful webpages

[www.readingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.readingmuseum.org.uk)

[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

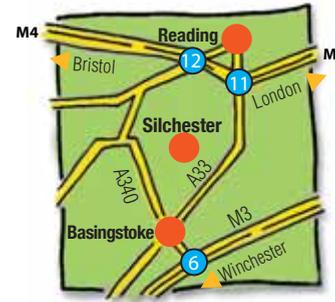
[www.myjourneyhampshire.com](http://www.myjourneyhampshire.com)

[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

[www.reading.ac.uk/silchester](http://www.reading.ac.uk/silchester)

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Managed by Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service



# Calleva Atrebatum

## Roman Silchester

### Roman Town Trail



Hampshire  
County Council

[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)



▲ The Forum

## Roman Silchester (Calleva Atrebatum)

**Calleva Atrebatum has been translated as 'town in the woods of the Atrebates'. The Atrebates were the local Iron Age tribe, who had a settlement at this site from the latest first century BC. The Romans based their administration here after the invasion of 43 AD.**

**The Roman town was laid out on a grid of roads. In the middle of the town was the forum, the administrative centre and the market. The town was filled with buildings from single-room structures to complexes set around small courtyards.**

**The public buildings included a bath house, temples and an official staging post called a 'mansio'. To the north east of the town is the amphitheatre which was built in the mid first-century.**

Roads head north from the town towards Dorchester-on-Thames, south to Winchester and Chichester, east to London and west to Salisbury and Dorchester. Archaeological excavation has recovered evidence of the industries practised here, such as metal and wood working. Artefacts from far and near show the extent of trading, including amphora from southern Europe, wine barrels from France and pottery from Italy as well as the New Forest.

In the late second century an earthwork defence (or 'rampart') was thrown around the town, and in the late third century a stone wall was built onto the front of the rampart. The town was probably abandoned after the fifth century in line with the general decline of Roman culture.

- 1 Leave the car park past the information panel. On your left is a large bank and ditch. This is part of the outer defences of the Iron Age town. The first written reference to the town is 'Callev' on the coins of the Iron Age king Eppillus.
- 2 Walking north or south you can see the third-century wall that fronts the second-century rampart, with the outer ditch. In places the wall survives to over 4 metres in height. It is built with flint and mortar, with tabular layers of stone for stability. The nearest source of flint is six miles to the south.

- 3 Both north and south are impressive gateways. These were built in stone at the same time as the second-century earth rampart. The gates originally had one carriageway arch. It is believed that the walls were topped by battlements.
- 4 The amphitheatre was built about 50 AD, not long after the Roman town was established. It was built by lowering the ground level and throwing up the seating bank. It is elliptical, with opposing entrances. It was rebuilt several times, and the flint wall is from the third century. The small niches are possibly for shrines to Nemesis, the god of fate.



▲ Amphitheatre

