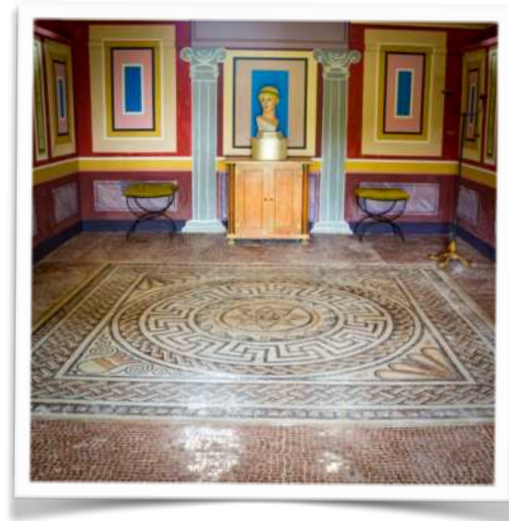




All structures within our Roman area are built to match the original excavated footprint of each site. This includes post size and spacing. The materials used to construct each house are sourced to match those that could have been found in the landscape, local to the excavation, at the time the original structure was built, and construction techniques are based on appropriate available technology.

SPARSHOLT ROMAN VILLA

Aim: To investigate the construction methods needed to build a Roman Villa and material resource requirements required to do so. To furnish and decorate a Roman Villa to demonstrate the style and living conditions in rural Romano-British homes. The Villa is based on excavations from Sparsholt near Winchester and was built as part of a Discovery TV series in 2002. It includes a working Hypocaust (underfloor heating), fireplace and most recently mosaic floor. The excavated remains at Sparsholt were no more than a metre high so we have drawn from other Roman sites to fill in the missing details. 350 tons of flint, 112 tons of mortar, 20 tons of plaster and 52 wattle and daub panels were used in the construction. We have laid an opus signinum floor and painted the walls using natural clay based paints with the design and colour scheme drawn from coloured plaster evidence found at Sparsholt. There are also both fresco and encaustic painted portraits displayed in the villa.



VILLA MOSAIC FLOOR

Aim: To test the techniques used and time taken to install a mosaic floor as found at Sparsholt Roman villa. In 2018/19 we laid a Roman mosaic floor in the central room of our villa using roman techniques and approaches. This took over 120,000 tesserae and 1000 hours!



HYPOCAUST EXPERIMENTS

Aim: To test the efficiency and consumption rates of a working hypocaust. In early spring 2019 we ran the hypocaust for ten days and nights to test the rates of wood consumption and effectiveness of the hypocaust in heating the above villa room.

ROMAN GARDEN

Aim: To represent a Roman kitchen garden, planting representative Roman herbs, vegetables, fruits and crops as would have been grown in Romano Britain. We use these for cooking, workshops and demonstrations.

ROMAN TOILET

Aim: To construct a communal Roman latrine (for display purposes!) on the outside of the villa, complete with demonstration flushing action and drainage system.

