

***REPORT by PAT BRILEY on the field walk which took place on the 24th April 1996.***

About a dozen members turned up on a warm and sunny April morning to 'walk' our chosen field, the site of the Paulton Villa (see previous article ) between Camerton and Paulton, with the permission of the farmer who had recently planted his crop.

Recording the positions of surface finds accurately required setting up a grid system in the field using ranging rods ,( red and white poles ),arrows, ( orange metal pins ),2x30 metre tapes and stones as markers. A line of 15 metre squares , each sub-divided into 5 metre squares, was marked out across the field in a north/south direction. Each large square was given a letter and each of its nine smaller sub-divisions a number to aid the plotting of finds in a plan of the field at later date.

Jayne, our Director of Excavations, explained what we should be looking out for, mainly fragments of pottery, tiles, glass, flint, and ferrous metal. She added that we shouldn't expect to find any Roman coins!

Working in pairs, each square was 'walked' and finds put into plastic bags, appropriately labelled with the reference code. It was amazing how soon one's eyes became attuned to recognising what we were looking for and the process accelerated, bags rapidly filling with finds. Coffee breaks and a picnic lunch in the field fortified the troops

and kept us all going until mid- afternoon . So attuned  
were we that it became difficult to stop!