

AMK Repok 3179

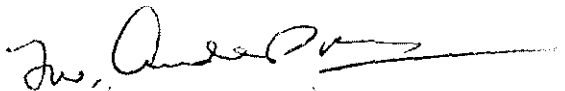
29th. August 1980

ROMAN VILLA, Hill Farm, Gostingthorpe, Essex.

If iron ore was being used in large amounts it would have had to be imported to the site. There is a little ironore in the Oldhaven and Blackheath Beds (iocene) near Canterbury, some in the Corallian (Jurassic) at Dover, in the wealden of the Weald, and, of course there is the Northampton Ironstone some distance away. On the other hand concretionary masses of Limonite have been found in the Red Crag (Pliocene) of the Sudbury area which could have supplied ore for a limited amount of smelting at Gostingthorpe.

As for the sandstone slabs (vide the fragment you sent me) these could have come from the Glacial Drift but they are very like 'Sarsens'. As these were derived by the weathering of the Reading Beds, the lower beds of the London Clay and the Bagshot sands they could occur in the Sudbury area. Large blocks of Hertfordshire Puddingstone are sometimes found in association with 'Sarsens' and I seem to remember seeing some 'Puddingstone' at Gostingthorpe.

Regards,


(J. Anderson)

Copy to Leo Nick, Esq.,
Ancient Monuments Laboratory.