

REPORT

Avon Archaeological Unit:
Mangotsfield School field, Bristol

A report on the sarcophagus (coffin) found in Mangotsfield School field. Please note, the sarcophagus was found with the stone lid on. It was laying northeast to southwest. Soil had dripped into the sarcophagus and filled it up.



Found near sarcophagus	Found in Sarcophagus
Large stones Roman tiles Hollow square bricks. Coins Brooches Small lumps of metal including very small amounts of copper and silver. Folding knife - the blade had rusted away but the handle was still there, decorated with a dog chasing a hare. Small bits of pottery	2 skeletons (incomplete) Rusty iron nails found near the feet.

Information on Pottery

Small bits of pottery from cooking pots and pie dishes were found. Much of this pottery had been made locally, but some came from Dorset. Some of it even came from parts of France and Spain, and would originally have been filled with wine or olive oil.

FACTS ABOUT THE ROMANS

Christian people were buried facing East-West. Although Roman transport was good by standards of the time, to travel between countries could take months and to transport food would have been very expensive. The houses of rich Romans often had heating systems. Hot air from fires was directed under floors and inside walls through hollow bricks.

From Bristol Hospital

The sarcophagus contained the bones of a woman. She was 1.48 metres tall. She had lost a lot of teeth and the bone had begun to grow over the empty tooth sockets by the time she died.

There was also the skeleton of a man of about 1.75 metres tall. He had some arthritis—a bone disease that normally only affects older people. He had very high levels of the metal lead inside his teeth.