

## **GEOPHYSICS AND THE ROMAN SETTLEMENTS OF HERTFORDSHIRE**

Kris Lockyear, Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL

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*Report by Nick Rowe*

It was a refreshing and informative lecture by a new speaker, Kris Lockyear, on the geophysical survey undertaken by him and others of Late Iron Age and Roman sites throughout Hertfordshire from small farmsteads to the city of Verulamium (modern St. Albans). Kris' first hand knowledge and his enthusiasm really shone through and seeing the results he and the team are achieving with the up-to-date Magnetometer, GRP and Resistivity equipment kept me on the edge of my seat for the entire evening.

Kris explained the results in understandable detail of the accumulating surveys from Verulamium Park (May to November 2013), where houses, shops and roads could be easily picked out and he explained some of the more modern features including pipelines and ditches that disturb or obscure their results. I was fascinated how the equipment has developed since undertaking my A-level archaeology only three years ago, the quality of results and power of these machines has increased times over, alas the price tags have not reduced to a realistic nonacademic capacity.

We have been extremely fortunate to acquire the evening from a member of a team at the pioneering edge of the next generation noninvasive archaeological equipment, but as yet they have not yet invented a suitable replacement for an archaeologist and their trowel. I hope we are able to sign Kris up for next winters program to give us some updates.

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