



THE INKERMAN GROUP

PRESS RELEASE

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DISCOVERY OF THE FENWICK ROMAN TREASURE - PROTECTED BY THE INKERMAN GROUP



Last week it was announced that a wealthy Roman woman's jewellery collection had been found in Colchester, buried in the floor of a house that was subsequently burnt to the ground during the Boudiccan Revolt in AD 61. A remarkable jewellery collection and reported to be one of the finest of its type to have been discovered in Britain, which included gold armbands, earrings and rings, together with silver chains.

The Inkerman Group was called in to assist in the protection and safe movement of the jewellery as it was transported to and from its secure location to the public venue at which the announcement of the finding was held. As well as the deployment of experienced security and close protection personnel providing physical protection, Inkerman tracking devices were also utilised so that the items could be tracked and monitored from the company's 24/7 Operations Room.

The treasure was discovered as part of excavations by the Colchester Archaeological Trust beneath the Williams & Griffin department store in Colchester High Street. Hugo Fenwick, trading director at the Fenwick Group which owns Williams & Griffin, said "we were pleased to find this excavation at our store as part of our redevelopment programme – there was always a very real possibility of unearthing a significant find in Colchester, in the context of its stature as Britain's oldest recorded town. Given its importance, we realised that we needed the services of an experienced specialist protection team to assist with all the aspects required in securely moving this treasure and in publicly announcing its existence, so we called in the services of The Inkerman Group. Everything worked seamlessly and they provided a superb service – professional, unobtrusive and very effective."



Gerald Moor, CEO of The Inkerman Group commented “This was an extremely sensitive and interesting assignment for The Inkerman Group and we were delighted to be able to assist Fenwicks in the successfully public delivery of such an ancient and fantastic treasure trove. It was a delicate operation, with our asset tracking devices also being used to ensure that our Operations Centre here in Ashford were able to monitor and track its movement at all times.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

THE INKERMAN GROUP

The Inkerman Group is a specialist protection, international business risk and intelligence company working throughout the world to identify and monitor the risks, threats and vulnerabilities facing businesses today and delivering solutions that counter or mitigate them. The Group's expertise covers all areas of risk, intelligence, travel safety, protection, investigations and security.

Based in London, Ashford Kent, and Meerbusch Dusseldorf, Germany, and formed in 1996, The Inkerman Group consists of professional and highly experienced staff with a wide range of skills and expertise from military, government service, police and business backgrounds.

The Inkerman Group provides specialist protection and related services throughout the UK and on an international basis.

THE FENWICK TREASURE

The Roman treasure is considered to be of national importance and one of the finest ever uncovered in Britain; it contains

- Coins in a bag
- Two silver bracelets
- Three gold armlets
- Two pairs of gold earrings
- Four gold rings
- Gold disc
- Silver armlet

The find is a particularly poignant one because of its historical context. It seems likely that the owner or perhaps one of her slaves buried the jewellery inside her house for safe-keeping during the early stages of Boudicca's revolt, when prospects looked bleak.

The writings of ancient historians record the main course of the revolt. Boudicca and her army destroyed three towns by fire; the inhabitants of Colchester were not evacuated but suffered a two-day siege before defeat. The inhabitants knew that a large British army was marching towards them and they knew that they were practically defenceless with only a small force of soldiers on hand and no town defences. Imagine their panic and desperation when they learnt of the massacre of a large part of the Roman Ninth Legion when on its way to relieve them.

The Boudiccan Revolt left in its wake a remarkable red and black layer, up to half a metre or more thick, under the centre of much of modern Colchester. The layer consists of the stumps of the standing burnt clay walls of buildings smothered under a mass of broken and collapsed fragments of clay from the upper parts of the walls.

Strangely, human remains are almost unknown in the debris, but the Williams & Griffin excavation produced a small but important collection including two fragments (part of a jaw bone and a shin bone). These remains suggest that at least one person fought and died in the building during the revolt.