

A GAZETTEER OF ROMAN SITES AND FINDS ON THE WEST SUSSEX COASTAL PLAINⁿ¹

by *M. W. Pitts*

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Ant.J.</i>	<i>Antiquaries Journal</i>
<i>Arch.J.</i>	<i>Archaeological Journal</i>
C.D.M.	Chichester District Museum
C.D.M. card	index card in the C.D.M.
Copley (1958)	G. J. Copley, <i>An Archaeology of South-east England</i> , Phoenix House (1958)
Cunliffe (1971)	B. W. Cunliffe, <i>Excavations at Fishbourne</i> , Society of Antiquaries (1971)
Cunliffe (1973)	B. W. Cunliffe, <i>The Regni</i> , Duckworth (1973)
Dallaway (1815)	J. Dallaway, <i>A History of the Western Division of the County of Sussex: the Rape of Chichester</i> (1815)
Dixon (1878)	F. Dixon, <i>The Geology of Sussex</i> (1878)
Done (1953)	W. E. P. Done, <i>Looking back in Sussex</i> , Faber and Faber (1953)
Down (1974)	A. Down, <i>Chichester Excavations 2</i> , Phillimore (1974)
Down and Rule (1971)	A. Down and M. Rule, <i>Chichester Excavations 1</i> , Chichester Civic Society Excavations Committee (1971)
<i>Exc. Com.</i>	<i>Report of the Chichester Civic Society Excavations Committee</i>
Fleming (1949)	L. Fleming, <i>History of Pagham in Sussex II</i> , Ditchling Press (1949)
Heron-Allen (1911)	E. Heron-Allen, <i>Selsey Bill: Historic and Prehistoric</i> , Duckworth (1911)
<i>J.A.C.B.</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Joint Archaeological Committee</i>
<i>J.B.A.A.</i>	<i>Journal of the British Archaeological Association</i>
<i>J.R.S.</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
O.S. card	Ordnance Survey index card
<i>P.G.A.</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Geological Association</i>
<i>P.H.F.C.</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club</i>
<i>S.A.C.</i>	<i>Sussex Archaeological Collections</i>
<i>S.N.Q.</i>	<i>Sussex Notes and Queries</i>
<i>V.C.H.</i> 2 (1907), 3 (1953) and 4 (1953)	volumes of the <i>Victoria County History of Sussex</i>

ⁿ¹ The text of this paper stands as submitted in March 1976. Since that date, a number of relevant publications have appeared, including A. Down, *Chichester Excavations 3*, Phillimore (1978). See also *S.A.C.*, Vol. 116.

INTRODUCTION

Although this Gazetteer contains a fair amount of material that has only come to light recently, a great number of the sites were discovered further back in the past, and are confirmed by a continuous series of notes and articles published over the past century or so. A greater number still, despite a similar antiquity, have never been systematically published at all, and since such sites are intimately bound up with the history of the museums of the area, this topic seems a suitable point at which to begin.

There were until recently three museums in the area covered by this Gazetteer, at Bognor Regis, Littlehampton and Chichester. Of these, only the latter is now active, and it is this museum that is of greatest significance in terms of collections of archaeological artifacts from the area. The history of the museums of Chichester is the fairly common story of the fruits of the enthusiasm and energy of one or more individuals being dissipated after their departure.

The first museum belonged to the Chichester Literary and Philosophical Society (later merged with the Mechanics' Institute),¹ which was formed in 1831, and had premises in North Street. Amongst objects acquired at an early date were the Avisford burial cists² (Gazetteer nos. 98 and i) and a block of tessellated floor from the Broyle (Gazetteer no. 5). Following the decline of the Institute's original fervour and idealism, as early as 1891, objects began to be dispersed from the collections: amongst other things, an offer was presented for two tattooed heads from New Zealand (this, in fact, was turned down, although no such heads appear to be in the Chichester museum today!). Acquisitions, as well as being sold (in 1903, £66 was realised from the sale of objects to local people or dealers), were seemingly also stolen. When, in 1924, 'Chichester was so unmindful of her illustrious past that she actually sold her Museum'ⁿ² it appears that most of its contents had been dissipated, although a reference a decade later to the 'Museum storeroom in North Street' suggests that the premises continued to be used.³

In 1932, a pamphlet was printed regarding a proposed museum for Chichester in what was then still known as the Old Jury Room, in Priory Park, the use of which the City Corporation had granted as 'temporary accommodation.' Despite the efforts of Miss G. M. White (now Mrs. J. G. D. Clark) and her father, however, who in the words of the Chichester Civic Society Excavations Committee's Report for 1954-1955, 'had worked unceasingly before the war to restart a Museum in the City,' progress was slow. Indeed, when one writer expressed the hope that 'one day Chichester will have a museum worthy of housing' the objects he was reporting on,⁴ 20 years had passed. Not that these two decades were uneventful. In a letter to the writer, Mrs. Clark writes: 'Towards the end of the war, when my father, Mr. W. Ll. White, was already incapacitated by illness, the collections were, without warning, transferred to the top floor of the Cricket Pavilion in the Park and there suffered the attentions of mice and decay, so that labels and maps were reduced to shreds.' Several of the items listed in this Gazetteer could only be identified by such shreds.

In 1947, the Chichester Civic Society Excavations Committee was established, which in 1953 assumed responsibility for displays in the Guildhall Museum, as the 'Old Jury Room' had by then come to be called. Finally, on the 25th of July, 1955, the Museum was formally opened. It was reported that 'brightness and cleanliness are everywhere apparent'⁵ and it seemed that, at last, the battle had been won. A few years later, on the 10th of November, 1962, the present Chichester District Museum was temporarily opened in premises made available by Mr. Stanley Roth. The Friends of Chichester Museum was inaugurated, bracing itself for the task of dealing with 'an immense backlog of sorting, cataloguing, cleaning and restoring.' The following year, the

Chichester Museum Society (together with the Bognor Regis Natural Science Society) joined the Joint Archaeological Committee, an organisation formed in the late 1950s to 'stimulate and co-ordinate the archaeological work of the Museums and Societies which are its members,' claiming as its special concern 'the recording of ancient field boundaries.'⁶ In 1964, the formation by the Chichester Museum of an Archaeological Correspondents Group was announced, in the image of the then youthful Worthing Group, whose mandate was 'to observe and report on any "disturbance" ... in the area covered by the museum' (i.e., approximately the area of this Gazetteer). The six inch maps and card index of sites now in the museum are the work of this Group. It is to be regretted, however, that in one crucial aspect—publication—the Chichester Group failed to match its Worthing counterpart. Furthermore, its efforts inevitably added to the 'immense backlog.'

The state of the Museums' collections, then, has been one stimulus to the compilation of this Gazetteer, and it is hoped that it will itself lead to the publication by others of similar lists of material of other periods. One might mention in particular the Bronze Age (there are at least seven hoards, none adequately published) and Medieval periods as being particularly promising in their potential value. More cheerfully, Mr. A. Down's work in Chichester and in the Chilgrove valley, a shining example to all who work in the area, should gain from the background which this corpus will provide. The final decision to publish was precipitated by the accumulation in the writer's hands of Roman material from recent 'disturbances,' which, while too trivial to publish by themselves, would help to fill out a general pattern that a gazetteer can furnish.

The system followed has been to give each site a name, which is followed by the parish in which the site lies. Where distinction is thought necessary, the writer's comments on published material have been italicised; it should be borne in mind that some of the older records may not be as reliable in their accuracy as one would like. The area covered extends north to the E-W grid line 070 and west to the N-S line 800, extending beyond this to cover the whole of the Selsey peninsula. This area (c. 220 square km.) is the same as that covered by the writer's gazetteer of Mesolithic finds⁷ (Fig. 1).

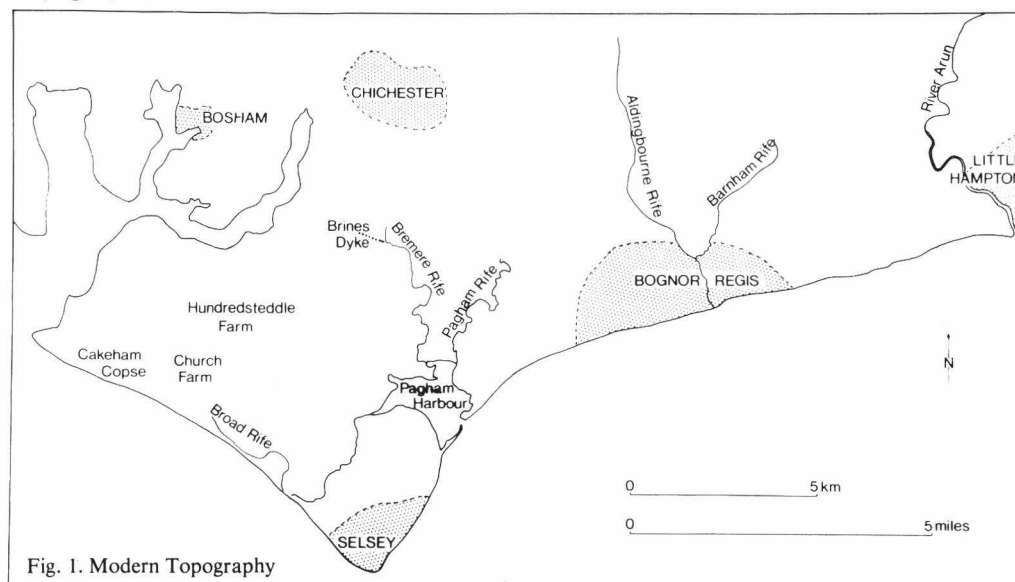


Fig. 1. Modern Topography

One site from outside this area has been included for its obvious relevance, and this is listed separately from the main numbered series (site no. i). Extra-mural sites in the gazetteer for Chichester⁸ have been marked on the map (Fig. 2) with dots. The Samian identifications for all but one of the sites (Gazetteer no. 65) are the work of Mr. G. B. Dannell (cf nos. 55, 56, 66, 76, 77, 94 and 105). Mr. A. Down has contributed a number of entries (nos. 10, 15, 64, 100 and 103). Mr. A. C. King contributed comments on the pottery from sites 57 and 59, and provided the associated drawings.

A NOTE ON THE MAP (FIG. 2)

The topographical appearance of the Coastal Plain has changed considerably during the ten millennia or so since the final climatic warming which marked the close of the Devensian glaciation. A rising sea level caused the river and stream channels, graded to a low level during cold periods in the Pleistocene, to become, first, submerged, creating a landscape dissected by narrow marine inlets. With the sea at its highest level, the Arun valley would have contained a depth of water of anything up to 100ft. (30m.) or more;⁹ the valley of the Aldingbourne Rife at least ten feet (3m.), and probably considerably more.¹⁰ Thus it seems that the larger streams would have been easily navigable, at least in their lower and middle reaches, in craft of greater draft than a simple canoe. At the same time, silt was being deposited in these inlets: the valleys of the Arun, and the Barnham, Aldingbourne, Pagham, Bremere and Broad Rifes, are now almost totally filled. It is noticeable that the inlets around Chichester and Bosham, protected by the Isle of Wight from the severe erosion inflicted on the western coast of the Selsey peninsula, are still tidal. It is likely that the accumulation of eastward drifting beach material at the mouths of the Arun and the rifes listed above is partly responsible for their earlier silting and colonisation by dry land plants.

The chronology of submergence, silting and erosion, probably both contemporary and continuous processes, can be little more than guessed at, as there is as yet no local evidence. The general picture along the English Channel seems to be that the sea had risen to more or less its present level by c. 3000 b.c.¹¹ At the time of submergence, the valleys of the rifes were clothed in forest.¹² Were samples of preserved wood to be subjected to C14 dating, it is not unlikely that dates similar to those obtained for the submerged forest at Pett in E. Sussex (c. 3300 b.c.)¹³ would result. That Chichester harbour at least was navigable in Roman times is strongly implied by the location of the palace and earlier military buildings at Fishbourne, and the tile clamps along the east coast of the inlet (Gazetteer no. 11).

Bede, writing in the 8th century A.D. about events which occurred some three centuries before, described Selsey as 'a place surrounded by the sea on all sides except to the west, where there is an approach about a sling's cast in width.'¹⁴ If we allow for one km. of coastal erosion since Bede's time, it is possible to 'recreate' his island, assuming that the inlets were then still tidal. The valley of the Broad Rife can be interpolated so that the small stretch of estuarine alluvium south of Church Farm, East Wittering (SZ 970803) becomes the most distant extension of an inlet that met the open sea at Pagham harbour. The most southerly bend of this extension could well come within a 'sling's cast' of the coast (at c. SZ 950802), thus producing Bede's isthmus; the resultant 'island' is an L-shaped piece of land, with its long arm orientated NW-SE, and its short (the only part still surviving) SW-NE. Bede notes that Ethelwath granted Wilfrid 87 hides of land.¹⁵ The Selsey island (c. 15 square km.) would require these hides to be c. 18 hectares (c. seven acres) in extent, which, even admitting the dangers inherent in working from hides to areal units, does seem excessively small.¹⁶ If we include all the land south and west of 'Brines Dyke',¹⁷ we arrive at a figure of c. 70 ha.

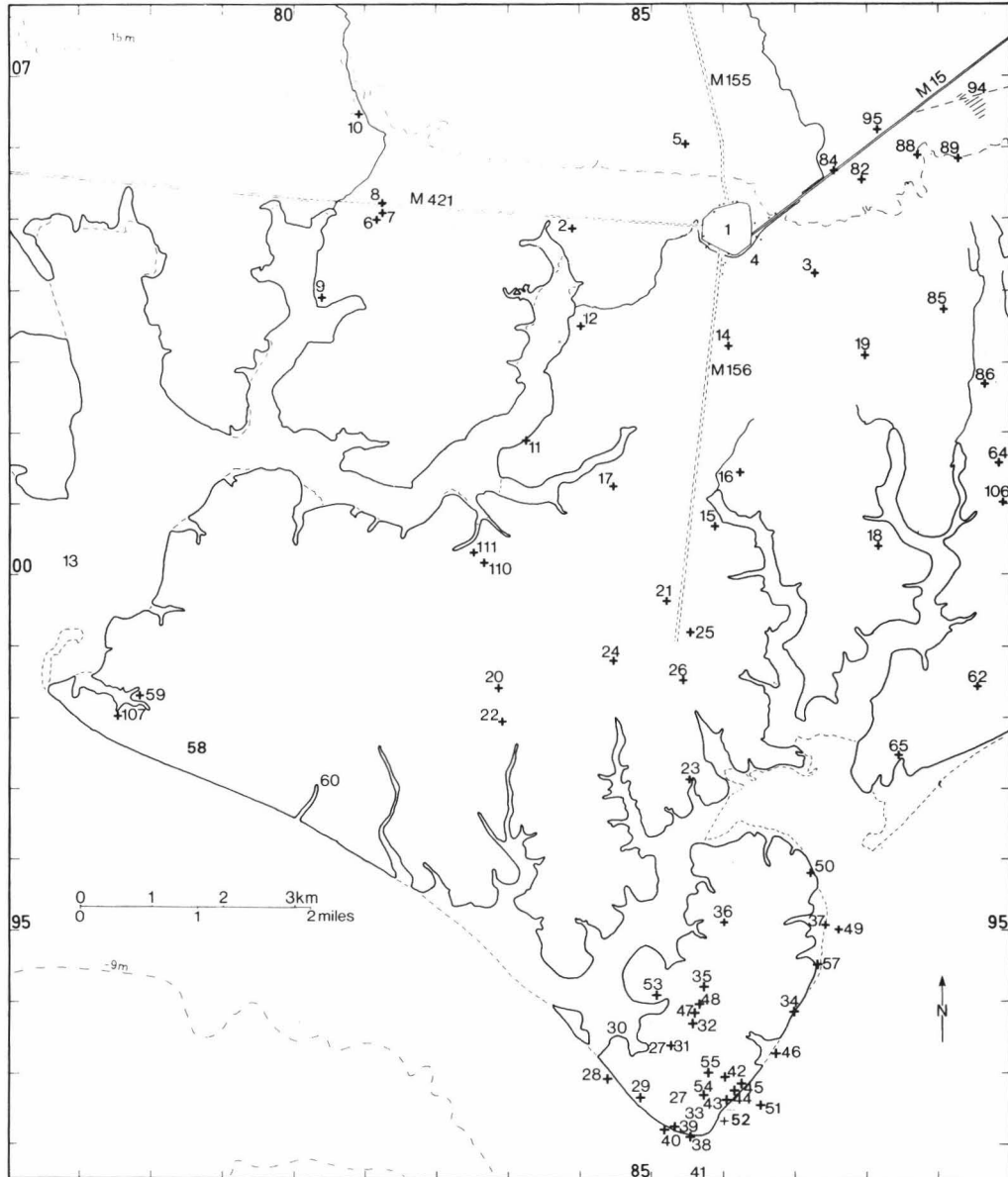


Fig. 2a. Location map of Roman sites and finds

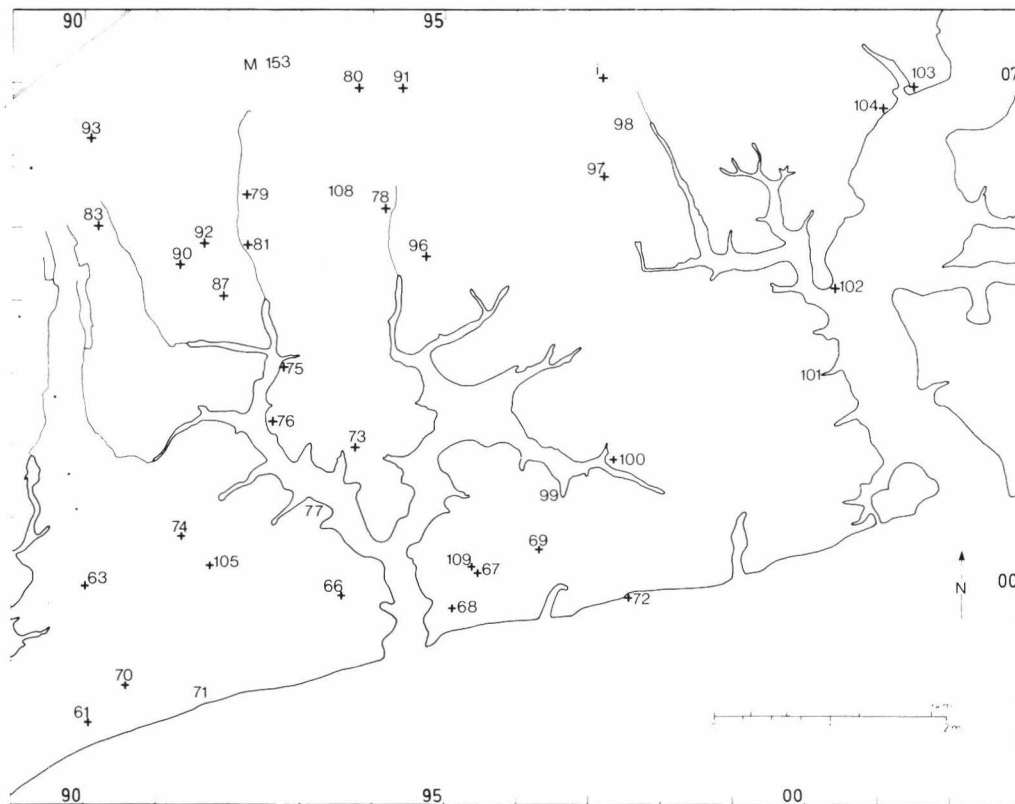


Fig. 2b. Location map of Roman sites and finds

(c. 28 ac.) per hide. It must be admitted, however, that while providing an alternative context for Brines Dyke,¹⁸ this interpretation (spreading the 87 hides over the whole Selsey peninsula, while restricting Bede's topographical description to the Selsey island itself) is apparently at variance with the text. An alternative approach would be to allow for greater erosion of the coast to the south—something in the order of an enormous 10km. (six miles). Whatever the case, it seems fair to extract the implication from Bede's text that the Broad Rife inlet was, in his time, tidal, and accessible through Pagham harbour.

In sum, then, it seems likely that the estuarine inlets of the Plain would have been tidal at least between 3000 b.c. and the 8th century A.D. On the base map (Fig. 2), the coast has been carried inland along the boundaries of these inlets as indicated by the present extent of estuarine alluvium.¹⁹ It should be stressed that the resultant picture is not meant to be taken as an accurate representation of the Roman coast-line. The amount of subsequent seaward erosion is unknown, as is the then degree of silting in these inlets. That the sea level was not constant even during this short period is suggested by evidence from Fishbourne indicating flooding in late Roman times.²⁰ The main point of the map is to impress that conditions *have* changed. Elucidation of the details of this change awaits future work.

THE LAVANT

Not only has the coast changed since Roman times, but the major stream (albeit, now at least, seasonal) flowing from the Downs, now follows a different course. The distribution of freshwater alluvium indicates that the Lavant once flowed out to sea at Pagham harbour. Its modern (or rather 18th century) course is mapped in Fig. 2. It would seem most likely that the change was brought about by deliberate diversion (at the point where the Lavant meets Stane Street) but the date of this act is not known. Aldsworth and Freke,²¹ following Johnston,²² suggest a medieval context, while Bradley²³ and Cunliffe²⁴ favour a Roman date. If in fact the latter is correct, it may be imagined that one reason for the diversion would have been the drainage of what is now known to have been a marshy area to the south of the town walls. However, such conjecture should really be reserved until the date of the diversion be determined.

ROADS²⁵*M421. Chichester-Bitterne.*

There is no published evidence for this route immediately outside Chichester, but its presence further west has been demonstrated.²⁶

M155. Chichester-Silchester.

Margary²⁷ accepted the evidence of aerial photographs and of Down's excavations,²⁸ which indicate a route leaving the town along the modern A286, rather than on the line of the B2178 which Margary originally suggested.

M15. Chichester-London (Stane Street).

Two sections through this road within the area of this Gazetteer have been described.²⁹ At SU 875056³⁰ the metalling was apparently about 30ft. (c. 10m.) wide, with flanking ditches 90ft. (c. 30m.) apart. An iron linch-pin was found on the berm (reminiscent of Childe's nut on Haverstock Hill!) and, just outside the northern ditch, one or more cremation burials (Gazetteer no. 84).

M156. Chichester-Sidlesham.

The route exists today as a combination of alignments, place-name evidence and crop-marks. *J.A.C.B. n.s., Vol. 1* (1965), notes that 'metalling can be plainly seen across ploughed fields at the present time at Kipson Bank (SU 856007).' Unlike Stane Street, and to a lesser extent roads M421 and M155, this route is almost entirely ignored by the modern road network.

Other routes

The existence in Roman times of various additional roads in the area has been postulated. The main one is the Chichester-Brighton route (M153) which branched off Stane Street, or possibly began as an independent road at Chichester.³¹ The argument for this route is dependent on modern alignments alone, which Margary, in Alfred Watkins' vein, believed too straight to be anything but Roman in origin. However, the route (which is not as straight as known metalled ones) was an integral part of the 18th C. network, running along the upper Coastal Plain and linking a number of N-S tracks that connected (as they still do) the Plain with the Downs. Any evidence indicating it to be a Roman creation has yet to be produced.

Cunliffe³² maps a road linking the palace at Fishbourne with the east gate of Chichester. In pre-Margary times, it was thought that a road headed north from Chichester, skirting the west side of the Trundle.³³ Done³⁴ believed in a Roman road from Birdham to Bracklesham; for short stretches such as this, more than straight lines on a map are obviously necessary as evidence.

FIELD SYSTEMS

The words 'Field System' appear on O.S. maps of the area in the parishes of Sidlesham (SZ 835985 area) and West Wittering (SZ 790995 area), and references by archaeologists and others are occasionally made to prehistoric or Roman fields on the Plain. During the compilation of this gazetteer, aerial photographs in County Hall, Chichester (vertical covers at c. 1:10,000, taken in 1949, 1963, 1965 and 1971) and record maps in the Barbican House Museum, Lewes, were scanned with a view to producing a map of these fields. However, with the exception of a few small ditches at Cakeham Copse, West Wittering (SZ 786977) and north of Hundredsteddle Farm, Birdham (SZ 817992) all the crop-marks seen, and all those drawn on the Society's maps in Barbican House, relate to boundaries mapped by Yeakell and Gardner in the late 18th century. Experience has shown, particularly during the drought of 1976, that Roman or earlier features are most unlikely to appear as crop-marks on the brickearth, which covers the greater part of the area under consideration.

Housing development in North Bersted (Gazetteer no. 77) is at present gradually exposing a system of early Roman fields, that appear to be small in size, and thin and rectangular in shape. In this general description, they are comparable to the Roman fields recorded by Lewis³⁵ on the Plain east of the Arun, at West Tarring, Worthing. These fields have very similar counterparts in the 18th century landscape (for example, a group in the area of South Bersted), but evidence for any continuity is not forthcoming. At North Bersted and West Tarring, the Roman fields bear no obvious relationship to later boundaries. The same impression is given by some odd stretches recently exposed in Bognor (Gazetteer no. 66).

It is perhaps of interest to note that evidence has been claimed for centuriation not only at Ripe in East Sussex, but also over the whole of the Sussex Coastal Plain, from Itchenor to Worthing, as well as in other areas of England.³⁶ There can be no denial that there are a number of intriguingly long field alignments in the area, but to explain this through the

invocation of centuriation is blanketing a complicated and drawn-out process of landscape evolution with a simplistic device for which there is no real evidence.

GAZETTEER

1. *Noviomagus Regnensium*. Down and Rule (1971) and Down (1974), with refs.

The earliest activity recognised on the site of the Roman town to date is associated with pre-Flavian timber buildings of military origin. The street grid appears to have been initiated towards the end of the 1st C., about a century before the construction of the earliest earth rampart. The latter was enlarged with stone fortifications around the mid 3rd C. A large cemetery has been explored outside the East Gate, in use from c. 70 A.D. to possibly as late as the early 4th C. A second cemetery has recently been recognised outside the North gate. There is no evidence to suggest that a third existed to the south of the town, the burial reported in 1819 (Chichester Roman Gazetteer no. 28) being likely to belong to an estate outside the city (A. Down).

2. *New Fishbourne, Chichester*. SU 839048. Cunliffe (1971).

Excavations revealed a sequence of activity beginning at the time of the Conquest (with two military store buildings) and ending in the late 3rd C. The military development was quickly replaced by civil, including a complex of rooms and a bath suite around a courtyard. In c. 75 A.D., a large system of four wings enclosing a formal garden (possibly Cogidubnus' palace) was set out. Reduction in the inhabited area during the 2nd C. was followed by a fire in c. 280, after which activity on the site seems to have ceased. Roman material in the area covers 35 to 50 acres.

3. *Whyke, Chichester*, SU 872042(?), 1. *Exc. Com.* (1954-55); 2. *S.N.Q.* 14 (1957), p. 288.

(1). Stone burial cist found in gravel pit, containing three jugs dated to c. 100 A.D.

(2). Cist now in the C.D.M.

S.A.C. 48 (1905), p. 152, notes that 'several interesting Roman coins have occurred of late at Whyke,' including a Valens denarius. There is a complete jar in the Guildhall Museum, with a note recording its date and place of discovery (1955, at 'Wyck' gravel pit) and date of purchase (1966), quite probably from the cist.

4. *Rumboldswyke, Chichester*. SU 8604. 1. *S.A.C.* 17 (1865), p. 255; 2. *S.A.C.* 47 (1904), p. 151; 3. *J.B.A.A.* 24 (1868), p. 215.

(1). Two Roman pots found at Rumboldswyke when digging ballast for the railway.

(2). A second brass of Tiberius and a third brass of Constantinian.

(3). Roman tile present in the chancel arch of Rumboldswyke church.

5. *Whitehouse Farm, Broyle Road, Chichester*. SU 854060. Heron-Allen (1911), p. 83.

Roman (and pre-Roman) occupation revealed in railway cutting.

Steer³⁷ refers to an unidentified newspaper cutting of 1848 which records the presentation of 'a piece of Roman tessellated pavement dug up on the Broyle' to the museum of that date in Chichester.

6. *Broadbridge, Bosham*. SU 810051. *S.A.C.* 18 (1866), pp. 1-4.

The foundations of a Roman building on an E-W alignment were discovered in 1832. Four rooms were exposed, including one enclosing a circular bath. Coins of Antoninus were found in the wall mortar.

Two marble heads have been found in Bosham, both in private gardens and thus presumably collectors' pieces; it is possible that they came from this (or another) local site:

i. *S.A.C.* 53 (1910), p. 272; marble head dug up c. 1850 (SU 811054). Cf. *Ant.J.* 45 (1965), pp. 178-82: head described as of late-Augustan or Tiberian style.

ii. Heron-Allen (1911), p. 84: marble portrait of ?Vespasian found in garden (SU 804038).

7. *Broadbridge, Bosham*. SU 810052. *J.R.S.* 58 (1968), pp. 202-3.

Excavations by Mrs. M. H. Rule in 1967 about 65 yards N-E of the site of the villa (Gazetteer no. 6) revealed three phases of timber constructions. A substantial palisade was succeeded in the late 3rd C. by a rectangular two-roomed building, which on being burnt down in the early 4th C. was replaced by a wattle-and-daub structure.

8. *Broadbridge, Bosham*. SU 812052. *S.A.C.* 18 (1866), pp. 1-4.

Considerable foundations found in 1832, in which were embedded a coin of Honorius.

9. *Bosham Church, Bosham*. SU 804039. *S.A.C.* 18 (1866), pp. 1-4.

Roman pottery fragments under the church and Roman tiles in the wall. *Perhaps to be treated with a little reserve: the bases of the Church piers were also pronounced as Roman.*

10. *Ratham Mill, Funtington*. SU 809064.

Double rectangular enclosure, interpreted as a Romano-British temple, seen from the air by J. R. Boyden. Visited by A. Down in 1965, who found surface scatter of Roman sherds and tiles.

11. *Dell Quay, Appledram*. SU 832019. 1. Heron-Allen (1911), p. 83; 2. *J.R.S.* 33 (1943), p. 76; 3. *J.R.S.* 58 (1968), p. 203; 4. Cunliffe (1973), p. 120.

The waste products of a Roman tile manufacturing centre appear to be scattered along the shore between Dell Quay and Copperas Point, a distance of somewhat more than one kilometre (c. three-quarters of a mile). The clamp(s) provided for the 2nd C. bath building at Fishbourne (4).

12. *Apuldram, Appledram*. c. SU 840034.

There is a small tin containing four Roman sherds in the C.D.M. labelled 'Ex.d by R. R. Clarke, 1/50.' A C.D.M. card records Roman coins (including one each of Maximianus I, Antonianus and Diocletian) from Apuldram, with no further details.

13. *Chichester Harbour? Arch.J.* 115 (1960), p. 73.

Legionary helmet said to have been dredged up near Chichester (now in Barbican House Museum).

14. *Donnington*. SU 860032(?). 1. Dallaway (1815), addition to p. 53; 2. *S.A.C.* 103 (1965), p. 28.

Cubic lead burial cist, 14 inches (1) or 18 inches (2) square, found during the excavation of the Portsmouth-Arun canal. Inside the cist was a large glass vessel containing a cremation. Amongst the pottery found in the surrounding earth was a small bronze lamp. The cist is listed as No. 22 in Toller's³⁸ corpus of lead ossuaria.

15. *Peckham's Farm, Hunston*. SU 858006.

A well and two parallel ditches 59 feet apart found during cutting of North Sea Gas pipe trench in 1969. The well probably is not Roman, but the position of the ditches suggests that they might have bounded the road to Selsey. No sign of metallurgy was seen, however. Roman pottery found in ditch. (A. Down).

16. *Hunston Farm, Hunston*. SU 862013. O.S. card.

Scatter of tile, pottery (including Samian and 2nd C. coarse wares) and tegulae fragments found in 1952.

17. *Whopham's Lane, Birdham*. SU 844011.

Roman finds, pottery, tegulae, imbrices and tesserae found, and a small ditch aligned N-S (revealed during road widening and reported to the C.D.M. by D. Barnes; observed by A. Down).

18. *Manor Farm, North Mundham*. SU 881004. *Gentleman's Magazine* (1836), Pt. 2, p. 418.

Silver coin of Didia Clara.

19. *Leythorne Park, North Mundham*. SU 879031. O.S. card.

Roman roof tiles and four sherds (including one dated by Dr. A. E. Wilson to 1st C. native overlap).

20. *Batchmere, Earnley*. SZ 827984.

Roman pits excavated in the garden of No. 111 Second Avenue, Batchmere, in 1965 (Land Settlement); owner, Mr. Lill (A. Down).

21. *Cloverlands, Chalder Lane, Sidlesham*. SU 856992.

Roman pottery, including a fragment of an amphora handle, found in 1937 (in the C.D.M.).

22. *Almodington, Sidlesham*. SZ 828979. *Gentleman's Magazine* (1836), Pt. 2, p. 418.

Hoard of 840 denarii in a pot, including coins ranging from Caracalla to Gallienus (c. 211-268).

23. *Keynor Farm, Sidlesham*. SZ 855970. *S.A.C.* 111 (1973), pp. 1-19.

Two-suite bath house of a villa excavated in 1951. Occupation of the site lasted from the 1st C. to the mid 4th C. O.S. card (1971) notes that 'one or two pieces of roofing tile which are lying about appear to be wasters.'

The following records may be related to the villa:

Heron-Allen (1911), p. 86: Roman pot found at Charity Farm, c. 1870 (SZ 8697).

C.D.M. cards: 1. Possible Roman drain of sandstone slabs and Roman pottery (SZ 856968); 2. Roman ditches found when road-widening (SZ 856972).

24. *Highleigh Farm, Sidlesham*. SZ 843987. C.D.M. card.

Roman pottery found when digging cess-pit, 1955-65.

25. *Sidlesham*. SZ 855991. O.S. card.

Vespasian dupondius found 1954.

26. *Littleton Barn, Sidlesham*. SZ 854984. Done (1953), p. 165.

Roman pottery and 2nd C. coin found in the late 1940's.

27. *Large Acres, Small Acres, Faith's Croft, Willshire's Croft, The Knap and Paddock Lane Fifteen Acres, Selsey.* SZ 851934 and 853927. Heron-Allen (1911), pp. 338-340; *S.A.C.* 53 (1910), pp. 272-3.

Heron-Allen records the finding of nineteen Roman coins, 1906-09, mainly in two groups of fields centred on the given grid references, during building operations; he notes that of these nineteen, 'a few . . . have been found by fishermen along the shore, and by farm labourers in the fields.' The coins were of Augustus, Nero, Vespasian, Domitian (2), Trajan (2), Hadrian, Antoninus Pius (3), Faustina snr., Marcus Aurelius, Faustina jnr., Lucilla, Commodus (2), Aurelian and Diocletian.

S.A.C. 53 (1910), p. 317: consular denarius of Oemilia family from SZ 851934.

There is a case of pottery, mostly Roman, in the C.D.M., labelled 'Found in the Gravel Pit, "Large Acres," July 1910.'

28. *Coastguard Station, Selsey.* SZ 843928. O.S. card.
Roman pottery found in 1914 and in 1918.

29. *Selsey.* SZ 848926. O.S. card.
Roman pottery found in 1930.

30. *The Mill, Selsey.* SZ 844934. Dixon (1878), p. 18.
Large brass of Sabina found with several brass coins of Hadrian, Marcus Aurelius, Faustina etc. (Possibly a mid 2nd C. hoard?).

31. *Small Acres, Selsey.* SZ 853934. *S.A.C.* 55 (1912), p. 318. Roman pottery. (Cf. *Gazetteer* no. 27).

32. *Near the church, Selsey.* c. SZ 856937. Dallaway (1815), p. 5.
Roman tiles and bricks in walls of rectory; fragments of Roman pottery found near churchyard and rectory.

33. *Selsey.* SZ 8592.
S.A.C. 55 (1912), p. 317: coins of Hadrian and Septimius Severus.
S.A.C. 67 (1926), p. 229: coins of Victorinus and Theodora.
S.N.Q. 14 (1954), p. 69: Roman well and pits washed away by the sea. C.D.M.'s accessions register notes a bronze fibula (pin missing), first half of the 2nd C., Selsey (Ac. no. 2000). The whole pin is missing now (1975).

34. *East Beach, Selsey.* c. SZ 869938. *S.A.C.* 60 (1919), p. 144.
Three coins (in bad condition): Julius Caesar, Antoninus Pius, Clodius Albinus.

35. *Golf Links Lane gravel pit, Selsey.* SZ 858942.
Heron-Allen (1911, p. 84) recorded the presence of large quantities of pre-Roman and Roman pottery from this area. There is a box of mainly Roman pottery in the C.D.M., with loose labels marked 'Found in the Brickearth at the Gravel Pit at North Common Farm, Selsey, July-Aug: 1909,' in Heron-Allen's handwriting (Acc. no. 634). This is probably some of the material referred to. Heron-Allen (1911, p. 21) also writes of 'evidence of a hypocaust' in the gravel pit.
Miss White (*Ant.J.* 14 (1934), pp. 40-52) has described evidence for Iron Age and Roman settlement in the same place, uncovered in 1931. Roman material dated from mid to late 1st C. (without any Samian).
Heron-Allen (1911), p. 340: fake denarius of Antoninus Pius in tin and lead alloy found near the golf links.

36. *Coles Farm, Selsey.* SZ 860950. Heron-Allen (1911), p. 340.
Coin of Constantine I.

37. *Church Norton, Selsey.* SZ 874950. O.S. card.
Roman pottery found 1930.

38. *Selsey Bill, Selsey.* SZ 855921. *J.A.C.B.* (Spring 1967).
Small well pit, with dry stone lining, cut from the buried Roman land surface, exposed by winter gales.

39. *Selsey Bill, Selsey.* SZ 854922. *V.C.H.* 3 (1953), p. 66.
Roman rubbish pit on shore edge.

40. *Selsey Bill, Selsey.* SZ 853922. O.S. card.
Two necks of large Roman amphorae washed up, 1917.

41. *Selsey.* SZ 8591 (?). *V.C.H.* 3 (1953), p. 66.
Four glass vessels dredged up off Selsey c. 1860.

42. *Cotland Field, Selsey.* SZ 860929. *J.A.C.B.* 9 (1962).
Roman well lined with sandstone slabs bonded in clay. Timber lining preserved at bottom.

43. *Fishshop Farm, Selsey*. SZ 860927. O.S. card.
Roman pottery found 1929.
44. *Fish Lane, Selsey*. SZ 861927. *S.A.C.* 55 (1912), p. 318.
Fragments of Roman pottery found.
45. *Halton, Selsey*. SZ 862928. 1. *S.A.C.* 74 (1933), pp. 140-163; 2. *Exc. Com.* 3 (1951-52).
(1). Pot containing 975 coins, A.D. 220-270, found 1932. The hoard consisted of coins of, amongst others, Valerianus I (41), Gallienus (91), Salonia (47), Postumus (513) and Victorinus (110). Discoverers of the hoard also found quantities of Roman pottery fragments and the foundations of two parallel walls.
(2). Roman pottery collected from the site.
46. *Beach Tramway Station, Selsey*. SZ 867932. Heron-Allen (1911), p. 86.
'Large numbers of Roman coins' discovered, including some of Aurelian and of Diocletian.
47. *Trojan Brickfield, Selsey*. SZ 856939. *S.N.Q.* 3 (1931), p. 222.
Three pots, largest containing a cremation, dated by Miss G. M. White to the 1st or 2nd Cs. *The identification of this site as the Trojan Brickfield rests on a pencil drawing of a pot (vessel 'A' in the published figure) in the C.D.M., with the subscript 'Romano-British burial group from Trojan Brickfield, Selsey, given by Miss G. H. White (sic),' and a reference to S.N.Q. c. 1930-32. A box of 3rd-4th C. pottery, containing an envelope addressed to Mr. W. Ll. White labelled 'Trojan Brickfield, 1938, Selsey, Sussex,' is probably from the same site or nearby.*
48. *Manor Farm, Selsey*. SZ 857939. *S.A.C.* 67 (1926), pp. 219-20.
Hoard of 21 coins, mid 4th C., found 1925: Victorinus (8), Tetricus snr. (2), Tetricus jnr., Probus, Constantine I (3), Constantius II, Magnentius and Valens (4).
49. *Church Norton, Selsey*. SZ 875949. *Ant.J.* 6 (1926), p. 321.
Roman pewter flagon found in 1923.
50. *Church Norton earthwork, Selsey*. SZ 872957. *S.A.C.* 55 (1912), pp. 56-62.
A trench through the rampart produced pieces of Roman tile and pottery (including a single sherd of Samian) at its base.
51. *Lifeboat Station, Selsey*. SZ 865926. *Ant.J.* 4 (1924), p. 61; *J.R.S.* 12 (1922), p. 275.
Coin of Hadrian and 1st and 2nd C. pottery (including Samian) found at a new lifeboat slipway. Similar pottery found some 500yds. away. An O.S. card records Roman pottery in a midden found at SZ 864926 in 1923-33, in addition to the material given in the former two references.
52. *Selsey Bill, Selsey*. SZ 862924. *S.N.Q.* 3 (1931), p. 222.
A Roman pot with a cremation was found in the cliffs at Selsey in 1929.
53. *Warner's Farm, Selsey*. SZ 850940. O.S. card.
Roman urn found in 1893.
54. *James Street, Selsey*. c. SZ 858927.
Complete (though broken) pot in C.D.M., shape similar to no. 180a from St. Pancras cemetery, Chichester (Down and Rule 1971, Fig. 5.24), in sandy grey-buff fabric.
55. *Grafton Road, Selsey*. SZ 858930.
A group of pottery was recovered in 1959 from a drainage ditch dug during housing development at number 3, Grafton Road, Selsey. It consists of a shallow buff dish, a beaker of thin cream fabric, a squat globular beaker of grey to buff fabric, a grey flanged bowl and fragments of a similar vessel, the base of a grey ware jar, two Samian dishes (forms 36, Flavian?, and 33, 2nd century?) and fragments of a third (form 36). Most, if not all, of the breaks in these pots appear to be recent. They are all very worn, and probably form the grave goods of one or more burials (all finds in the C.D.M.).
56. *Crookhaven, Selsey*. (Location not known).
Tibero-Claudian or Claudian Samian plate, with a two-line stamp reading CAN—S / IVS——. 'Crookhaven, Selsey. 20.3.33' is written on this piece; nothing else is known about it (C.D.M. ac. no. 237).
57. *Greenlease Farm, Selsey*. SZ 873944. *S.A.C.* 58 (1916), p. 196.
'Several bronze coins of Diocletian and Constantine the Great' are reported, together with a Roman gold ring. This ring is catalogued as No. 777 in Henig's *British Archaeological Report* 8 (1974), where the motif is described as a *dextrarum iunctio*, and a third century date tentatively suggested.
'Near the same spot,' two amphorae necks were found in 1915, 'one of the circular handled and one of the high-shouldered angular type,' the latter encrusted with barnacles and worm-tubes. The description of the second amphora fits

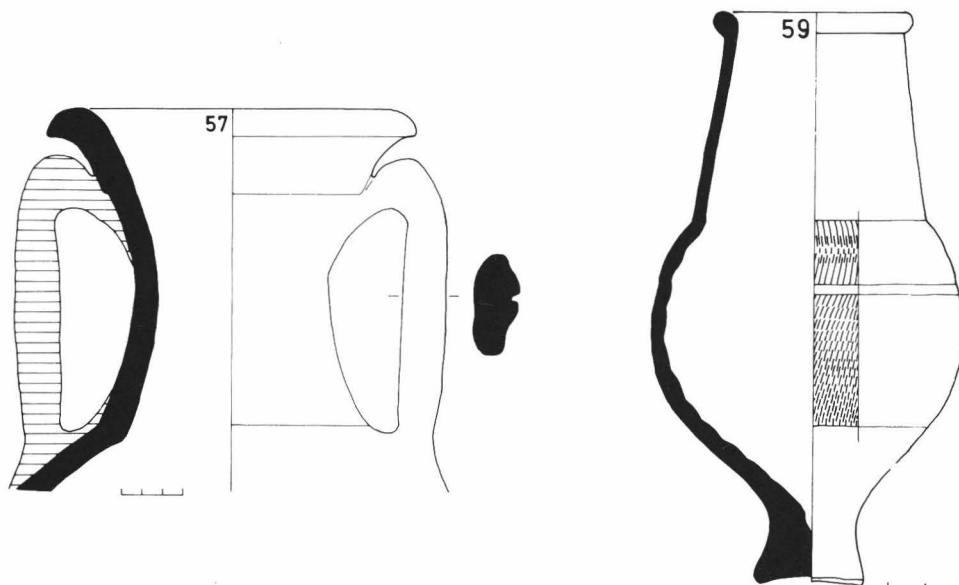


Fig. 3. Claudio-Neronian amphora neck from Selsey (57, scale 3 cm) and 4th C beaker from West Wittering (59, scale 1 cm).

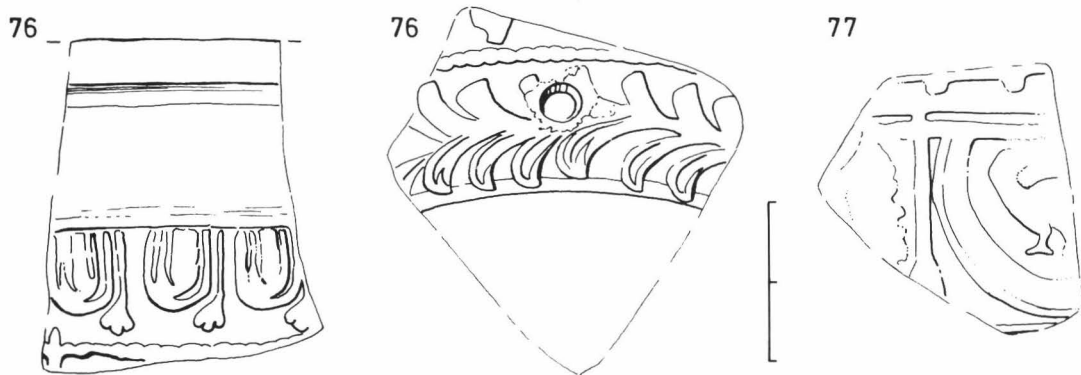


Fig. 4. Decorated Samian sherds from Poplars Barn (76) and Hazel Road (77), Bersted. All form 37 (Flavian). The central sherd has a repair hole. Scale 2 cm.

a piece in the Guildhall Museum, Chichester (Fig. 3), which bears a label reading 'Neck and ears of Roman amphora washed out of the brickearth on the coast of Sussex at Selsey. November 1911. One of two (2)'; the handwriting is Heron-Allen's (Ac. no. 1204). A. King reports that this is a Callender Form 9/ Camulodunum Type 186 B/ Dressel Form 7 (or perhaps a narrow-necked form of 9), and is considered by Callender³⁹ to be Claudio-Neronian in date, possibly Italian and probably used mainly for *garum* and other similar suaces (as suggested by the *tituli picti* and the wide mouth of the type).

58. *Cakeham, West Wittering*. SZ 7897. 1. *J.B.A.A.* 2 (1847), p. 199; 2. *S.A.C.* 8 (1856), p. 290.

(1). Two complete Roman pots dug up, as well as many fragments.

(2). 12 Roman coins found: Constantius (4), Magnentius, Julian II, Valentinian I (5) and Magnus Maximus.

59. *The Wad, West Wittering*. SZ 779983. *J.A.C.B.* 10 (1962).

Two complete (though broken) Roman pots found on a building site.

There is a fine beaker on display in the Guildhall Museum (C.D.M. accession no. 1730) which the register makes clear is one of the two vessels referred to above. Although not listed by Fulford in his corpus,⁴⁰ it would seem to be a fourth century New Forest product, in his fabric 1b, similar in form to 30.1, but with the unusual feature of fine rouletting (Fig. 3).

60. *East Wittering, West Wittering*. c. SZ 8097.

There are a few Roman sherds in the C.D.M. which the accessions register records as having come from East Wittering (no. 636). The day book also notes the finding of a Roman coin (?Hadrian) at this location (entry for 6.9.73).

61. *Bay Estate, Pagham*. c. SZ 902983.

C.D.M. accessions register records the finding of Roman pottery on the Bay Estate, Pagham (217/74).

62. *Nyetimber, Pagham*. SZ 895984. *J.A.C.B.* 9 (1962).

Roman pottery found in housing development trenches.

63. *Crimsham, Pagham*. SU 901001. *S.N.Q.* 15 (1962), pp. 351-2.

2nd-early 3rd C. burial group consisting of three pots (one identified as a New Forest beaker) found in 1958.

64. *Newlands Farm, Pagham*. SU 898015.

Roman pottery and tile found in 1970 during ploughing. Fragments of white tesserae, probably from a mosaic border, found near greenhouses and handed to A. Down.

65. *Becket's Barn, Pagham*. SZ 884974. 1. *S.A.C.* 96 (1958), p. 147; 2. *V.C.H.* 3 (1953), p. 62; 3. Fleming (1949), p. 625; 4. *Bulletin of the Institute of Archaeology* (London) 12 (1975), pp. 42-5.

A report (1) on excavations by A. H. Collins and L. Fleming refers to some Roman pottery, including two Samian sherds. There is a large box of Roman pottery, mostly grey wares, in the C.D.M., marked 'Lindsay Fleming, Pagham.' In this there are two pieces of Samian, of forms 18 (1st C.) and 33 (Trajanic?), which could be the same sherds referred to above.

Winbolt (2) recorded the finding of Roman pottery near Pagham church (c. 100m. n-w of the Barn); (3), without having seen the finds, considered them to be more likely of Medieval date.

Excavations in 1974 (4) produced further Roman pottery, including 'several 2nd C. Samian forms . . . e.g. forms 31R, 27 and 33.' A 'Roman cremation urn' has been found in the same field as the Barn (4).

66. *A29/A259 junction, Bognor*. SU 935000.

A watch kept on extensive roadworks in 1975 by Mr. M. Reed and the writer resulted in the discovery of a series of Roman ditches, on a NW-SE axis, containing quantities of 2nd-3rd C. pottery and a few tile fragments. Other finds include some Samian sherds (pre-Flavian and 1st C. scraps, forms 37—Hadrianic?, 38—Antonine and 31R—late Antonine), a shale handle lug, possibly from a dish, and a fragment of slag-encrusted crucible. All finds in the C.D.M.

67. *Felpham, Bognor*. SU 956003. *J.A.C.B. n.s.* 2 (1965-66).

Roman pottery found during housing development.

68. *Felpham Manor, Bognor*. SZ 952998.

An O.S. card records the discovery in 1959 of a 1st C Roman lamp (retained by finder). Mr. B. T. Wedmore provided the writer with photographs of this object, which form the basis for the description that follows. It is of Wheeler's Type III a, to which he gave a date bracket of c 70-120 AD. It is of orange-brown fabric, has no handle and has two fairly prominent lugs at the sides. There is no stamp, but the lamp is decorated with simple raised lines on the shoulder, which radiate out from the centre.

69. *Felpham, Bognor*. SU 964004. O.S. card.

Roman jar handle found in 1956.

70. *Aldwick, Bognor*. SZ 907987. O.S. card.
4th C rubbish pit found in 1953.
71. *Bognor*. SZ 9198 (?).
Dixon (1878), p. 71 : Agrippina brass found in 1842.
S.A.C. 66 (1925), p. 227: a Julian coin and a third brass of Claudius II.
72. *Middleton-on-Sea*. SZ 976999. *S.A.C.* 73 (1932), p. 204.
Two Roman pots found in the cliff in 1931. O.S. card records the finding of a Roman jar in the cliff (SZ 9799) in 1916.
73. *Shripney, Bersted*. SU 938020. *S.A.C.* 70 (1929), p. 217.
Iron Age and Roman pottery found. *Examination of the material in Barbican House Museum, Lewes, by the writer suggests that nothing need be pre-Roman in date.*
74. *Tinhale Barn, Bersted*. SU 914007.
3rd-4th C pottery found on field surface in 1973 by M. Reed (C.D.M. 88/73).
75. *Bersted*. SU 928031.
Roman pottery found on field surface by M. Reed in 1973 (now in the C.D.M.).
76. *Poplars Barn, Bersted*. SU 926023.
A small excavation by Messrs D. Barber, J. Deen and M. Reed in 1973 revealed a flint-cobbled area of considerable extent overlying a ditch system of 2nd C date. Finds included much pottery, animal bones, some small glass fragments, a bronze brooch, a solidified lump of molten metal, a small piece of iron tap slag, a socketed iron point, a Samian sherd shaped into a circular counter and the following Samian forms: 18R (Claudian), 18 R and Ritt. 12 (pre-Flavian), 18 R (Flavian, x2), 18 (Flavian, x2), 18 (2) (Flavian, x2), 27 (Flavian), 37 (Flavian, x2; Fig. 4), 18 (1st C, x2), 23 (1st C, x2), 27 (1st C), 42 (1st C), 18/31 (Trajanic, x3), 27 (Trajanic) and 33 (2nd C ?). The excavators report a scatter of Roman pottery adjacent to the site at SU 928023.
77. *Hazel Road, Bersted*. SU 930010.
Housing development (still in progress, 1979) revealed a complex of Iron Age and Roman ditches, the latter containing pottery of 1st to 3rd century dates, including the following Samian: forms 27 and Ritt. 9 (pre-Flavian), 24/5 (Tibero-Claudian), 37 (Flavian; Fig. 4), 18 (x2) and 30 (1st C), 18/31 (Trajanic) and 1st and 2nd century chips (finds in the possession of M. W. Pitts).
Two coins have recently been found near the site: to the south, at no. 17 Durlleston Drive, a Valens bronze (in the C.D.M.) and to the east, in Oak Grove, a Claudius Caesar as or dupondius (retained by finder) (identifications by R. Lintott).
78. *The Westergate School, Aldingbourne*. SU 941053.
Roman pottery found by writer in pipe trench (1975). Placed in C.D.M.
79. *Near Aldingbourne church, Aldingbourne*. SU 922055.
Base of colour-coated beaker picked up on ploughed field by writer (1975). Placed in C.D.M.
80. *Hale's Barn, Alaingbourne*. SU 938070. *S.A.C.* 64 (1923), pp. 193-4.
Burial cist formed by five stone slabs (four sides and a lid, latter 2ft. by 3ft.) discovered in 1918 when ploughing and setting out sheep hurdles. The cist contained three glass vessels, one holding a cremation.
81. *Tote Copse, Aldingbourne*. SU 923048.
Roman pottery thrown up by shallow pipe trench running north of the castle mound in 1974.
82. *Portfield, Oving*. SU 881055. 1. *S.A.C.* 86 (1947), pp. 137-40; 2. *Exc.Com.* 1 (1948).
(1) Mid 1st to 3rd C settlement revealed by gravel working.
(2) Roman well exposed in 1948.
83. *Briarcroft, Oving*. SU 902050.
Roman pottery, including a sherd of Samian, found when Briarcroft house was built in 1958. In the possession of Mr. and Mrs. P. Whitaker, Oving Manor, Oving.
84. *Stane Street, Oving*. SU 875056. *S.A.C.* 82 (1941), pp. 113-4.
Fragmentary cremation burial(s) found outside the northern ditch flanking the Roman road. Early 2nd C pot and fragments of a grey ware vessel with a cream-coloured slip.
85. *Merston, Oving*. SU 891036.
'Roman coins' found in ploughed field (information from Mr. L. Langmead, 1975).

86. *Merston Farm, Oving*. SU 896026.
'Roman lamp' found in ploughed field (information from Mr. L. Langmead, 1975).
87. *Littlereed Barn, Oving*. SU 920040.
2nd to 4th C pottery (including a scrap of 2nd C Samian) and possible quern fragment (Oving Survey, 1974-75).⁴¹
88. *Shopwyke Manor Farm, Oving*. SU 887058.
A few Roman sherds in field (Oving Survey, 1974-75).
89. *Copse Farm, Oving*. SU 893057.
A few Roman sherds in field (Oving Survey, 1974-75).
90. *Woodhorn Farm, Oving*. SU 914045.
A few Roman sherds in field (Oving Survey, 1974-75).
91. *Westergate, Aldingbourne*. SU 944070. 1. *Arch.J.* 11 (1854), p. 25; 2. *S.A.C.* 8 (1856), pp. 288-90; 3. *A Guide to the Antiquities of Roman Britain*, British Museum (1922), p. 98; 4. *V.C.H.* 3 (1953), p. 67.
Sandstone burial cist (37in. x 30.5in. x 20in.) with lid, found 1850. Rich contents, including inurned cremation(s), a pottery lamp, a glass bottle and numerous glass fragments, a bronze ring, an iron ring, two bronze fibulae enriched with bright blue and yellow enamel (latter dated by (4) to c. 200 AD), etc. Around the cist were found several vessels of whitish ware and many pottery fragments (possibly the goods of a separate unencisted burial?). Dated to c. 150 AD (3) or the turn of the 2nd and 3rd centuries (4).
92. *Woodhorn Farm, Tangmere*. SU 917048.
2nd to 4th C pottery in field (Oving Survey, 1974-75).
93. *Tangmere*. SU 901062. O.S. card.
Roman pottery picked up off field in 1970. *V.C.H.* 4 (1953), p. 238, notes presence of Roman bricks in the church (SU 902062).
94. *Maudlin Farm, Boxgrove*. SU 895064 area.
Dense scatter of weathered 2nd to 4th C pottery (including a few pieces of Samian: forms 37?—Flavian?, 27—1st C, 18—Trajanic (x2), 33—2nd C, 31?—2nd C, 35/6—2nd C, and some 2nd C scraps). A grey ware base sherd bears the fragmentary graffito 'XX...' or '... XX'. (Material in C.D.M.; Oving Survey, 1974-75). There is a complex of crop-marks extending beyond the area of pottery spread as at present known, visible in vertical air photographs in County Hall, Chichester. Most easily discernible are two ditched trackways. Most of these marks are unrelated to recent topographical features, so they may well be associated with the Roman settlement. The soil parent material is flint gravel.
95. *Westhampnett church, Westhampnett*. SU 881062. *S.A.C.* 21 (1869), pp. 33-43.
Quantities of Roman bricks and tiles were revealed in the church fabric during the restoration in 1867.
96. *Eastergate*. SU 946046. O.S. card.
Quantities of Roman pottery from surface of ploughed field, 1952 and 1971. Aerial photograph RAE AP 60802 (dated 1925) shows a possible villa.
V.C.H. 2 (1907), p. 362, notes that the lower part of the south wall of Eastergate church (SU 945051) is largely composed of Roman bricks.
97. *Walberton church, Walberton*. SU 971057. *S.A.C.* 87 (1948), p. 53.
Church walls largely composed of Roman bricks.
98. *Avisford, Walberton*. SU 9706. *S.A.C.* 8 (1856), p. 291.
A stone cist (much broken) found at Avisford was exhibited at Chichester in 1853, with a one-handled grey ware vessel containing burnt bones. *It is not clear whether the cremation pot and the cist were originally associated; the cist is not the same as that listed here as Gazetteer no. i, the two originally being described in the same article.*
99. *Flansham, Yapton*. SU 9601. *S.N.Q.* 6 (1937), p. 245.
Three coins: two 3rd C radiates and a 4th C Constantinopolis.
100. *Bilsham Corner, Yapton*. SU 975018. *J.A.C.B.* 13 (1963).
Excavations by A. Down in area of extensive roadworks revealed a ditch, flint walling and rubbish pits, with pottery of Flavian to 3rd C date.
101. *Ford*. SU 0003. Copley (1958), p. 302.
Roman burials and building (destroyed). *No other references to this material could be found by the writer.*

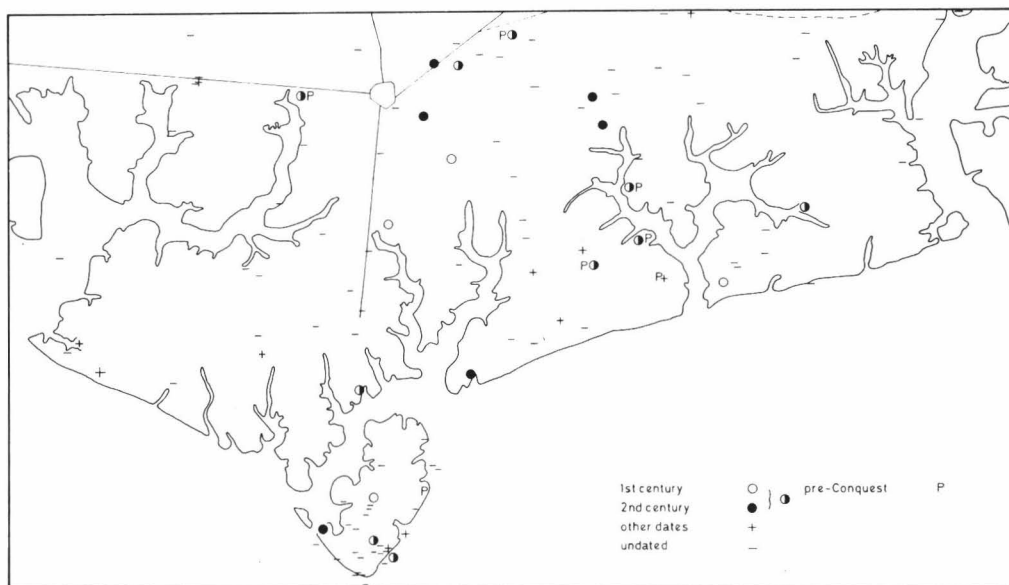


Fig. 5a. Map of sites up to 200A.D.

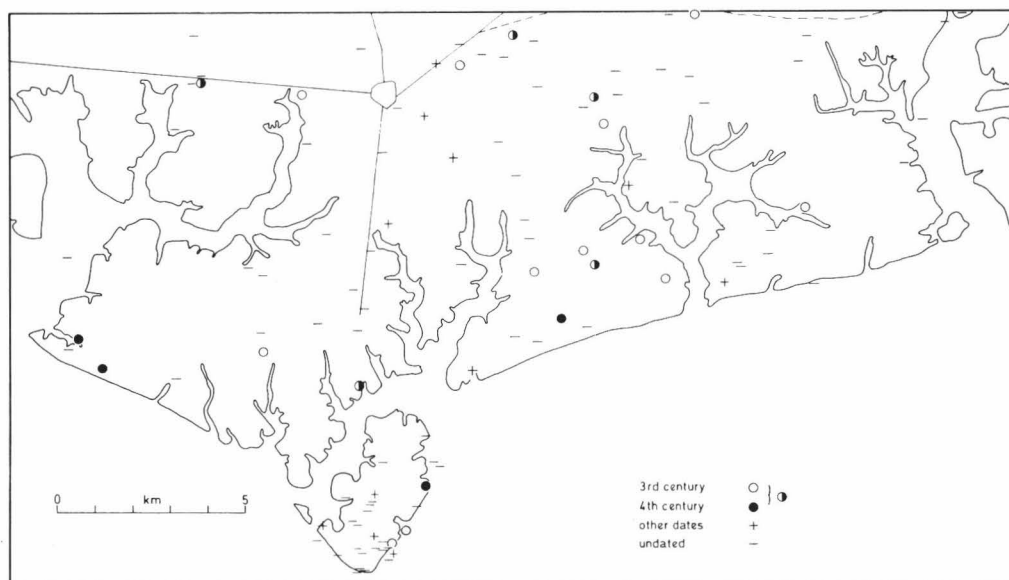


Fig. 5b. Map of sites after 200A.D.

102. *Tortington*. SU 005042. *S.A.C.* 106 (1968), p. 135.
Trajan dupondius found on the mud-bank of the Arun.
103. *Tarant Street, Arundel*. TQ 015070.
S.A.C. 40 (1896), pp. 283-4: tesserae and Roman tiles found.
In 1968, this site came to light again when a telephone cable trench in front of nos. 60, 62 and 64 sectioned part of a hypocaust and a black and white mosaic. The alignment of features suggests a fairly substantial house fronting onto the river (A. Down).
104. *Arundel*. TQ 011067. O.S. card.
Roman pottery.
105. *Chalcroft Lane, Bersted*. SU 917003.
A small excavation by Mr. J. Deen in ground disturbed by the straightening of a bend in the road (1974-75) revealed Iron Age, Roman and Medieval settlement. The Roman material consisted of several pits containing pottery spanning the 1st to 4th centuries. Finds included the complete bottom stone of a rotary quern and the following Samian: a Claudian chip, and forms 27 and 29 (pre-Flavian), 35/6 and 35 (1st century) and 37 and 31R? (Antonine) (finds in the C.D.M.).
106. *Crimshan Farm Field, Pagham*. SU 899010.
70 Roman sherds picked up from surface of ploughed field by Mr. B. T. Wedmore in December, 1976, including two sherds of a colour-coated folded beaker.
107. *West Wittering, West Wittering*. c SZ 775982.
1. Copley (1958), p. 310; 2. *V.C.H.* 3 (1953), p. 52.
(1) notes the existence of Roman cremations at this grid reference. This may be the same site referred to by (2) as 'a burnt burial and much Roman pottery' found about one mile from Cakeham.
108. *Nyton, Aldingbourne*. c SU 934055 (?).
The C.D.M. Accessions Register has a record of a cremation burial and Roman sherds from Nyton, Aldingbourne (214/74).
109. *Walberton Close, Felpham, Bognor*. SU 955004.
The Accessions Register in the C.D.M. lists Roman pottery from Walberton Close, Felpham, apparently including at least two complete vessels (191/74, 202-3/74).
110. *Birdham Straight, Birdham*. SU 827000.
The daybook in the C.D.M. has two records of Roman pottery found on the Birdham Straight: opposite the Birdham public house (1.12.72) and at Breeton Nurseries (29.3.73), the finds from the latter described as New Forest wear.
111. *St. James' Church, Birdham*. SU 824003.
There is a reference in the C.D.M. Accessions Register to two rim-sherds ('late 2nd/early 3rd century') from Birdham church (59/74).
- i. *Avisford, Walberton*. SU 972071. *S.A.C.* 8 (1856), pp. 290-1.
A sandstone burial cist, 3ft. 9in. x 2ft. 2in. x 1ft. 10in. with an 8in. thick lid, was hit when erecting hurdles in 1817. The contents included a square glass bottle containing a cremation, three pottery jugs as well as at least 28 other pottery vessels, two candle-holders, a small two-handled globular glass vessel and a pair of bronze-studded shoes. At one end of the cist, a shelf in each corner held a pottery lamp.
Dixon (1878), p. 91, refers to a 'very fine glass urn discovered at Warburton (sic) near Arundel ... containing burnt bones and a brass coin of Vespasian'. In view of the fact that 'several of the objects' were lost in 1856 (S.A.C. 8, p. 290), this could well be a reference to the cremation bottle from this Avisford cist.

DISCUSSION

Many of the finds listed above are little more than a few sherds or the odd coin, and there is clearly not much that can be said about these. The three maps are an attempt to summarise the information visually, Figs. 5a and b on a chronological basis and Fig. 6 on a thematic. The former two show an even and probably dense settlement over the whole area throughout the 1st to 4th centuries (individual coin finds, but not hoards, are treated as 'undated' on these maps. It is perhaps

worth noting that the three post-200 sites on the Selsey peninsula are all coin hoards). The third map shows a similar distribution of materials indicative of substantial settlement, presumably in most cases, if not all, farmsteads.

The Selsey island stands out as an area particularly rich in finds. E. Heron-Allen was probably more aware of this fact than most. In his major book (1911) he wrote that 'fragments of Roman pottery are to be found all over Selsey Bill, both in ploughing up the ground, and on the surfaces of the alluvium and the brickearth, exposed along the shore by the erosion of the cliffs'; and again, 'All over Selsey we find Roman coins in every state of preservation'.⁴² The words 'on the surfaces of the alluvium and the brickearth' may be an indication that he was slightly carried away, for as yet, there is no record of any Roman finds from the former deposit. Some twenty years later, he had come to believe in the 'existence of a Roman villa ... of vast extent, extending in fact from Pagham Harbour to where the lifeboat ekes out a precarious and expensive existence, and probably further south as far as the point of the Bill'.⁴³ Vast, indeed—in fact some five hectares (12½ acres) in area! Heron-Allen's general observations are supported by Mrs. Clark, who wrote at about the same time that 'Romano-British pottery can be found at almost any point along the cliff eastwards from Medmerry Farm'.⁴⁴ However, there is no reason to believe that this picture is unrepresentative of the Plain as a whole. It is just as likely to result from the industrious activities of knowledgeable individuals (including the two writers quoted above) living in the area at the time when sites were disturbed. It is unusual for any major excavation on the Plain to produce no Roman finds at all.

The lower part of Fig. 7 is a histogram of the coins from the area (excluding Fishbourne), using the 16 main periods described by Reece.⁴⁵ As well as coins mentioned in the Gazetteer, the diagram includes the following pieces: coins of Allectus, Constantius, Vespasian and Gordianus from the Sidlesham villa (Gazetteer no. 23)⁴⁶ and a Gallienus (bronze antonianus) from Bersted (no. 77). Also marked (but not included in the bars of the histogram) are the rough chronological positions of the coin hoards, of which there are three definite and three possible, as follows (preceded by Gazetteer no.):

- 30 (?). 'several brass coins', mid to late 2nd C, from the Mill, Selsey.
- 22. 840 denarii, c 211-268, found in a pot at Almodington.
- 45. 975 coins, 220-270, also in a pot, from Halton, Selsey.
- 46 (?). 'large numbers of coins', late 3rd/early 4th C, from the Beach Tramway Station, Selsey.
This may have been a hoard that was washed out of the cliff.
- 57 (?). 'several bronze coins of Diocletian and Constantine the Great', from Greenlease Farm, Selsey.
- 48. 21 coins, mid 4th C, from Manor Farm, Selsey.

The location of all the hoards on the Selsey peninsula is a notable feature (cf Fig. 6).

Bearing in mind that the number of coins in the list for the Plain is few, the pattern presented by Fig. 7 is extremely interesting, in that it deviates strongly from the usual situation in Britain, in which 'the majority of coins (c 80 per cent) ... belong to the years 250 to 402'.⁴⁷ Reece has already emphasised the unique nature of the Fishbourne collection, with its high proportion of 1st C coins, and he suggested that the equally unique character of the site was the major factor. However, the lower histogram suggests that the distinctiveness of Fishbourne is shared by its surrounding area (or, if we accept Cunliffe's interpretation of the site as the palace of Cogidubnus, its political hinterland). What on a national level, then, becomes a relatively large quantity of coins in the 1st and 2nd centuries, finds a parallel in the relatively large number of sites which have produced pre-

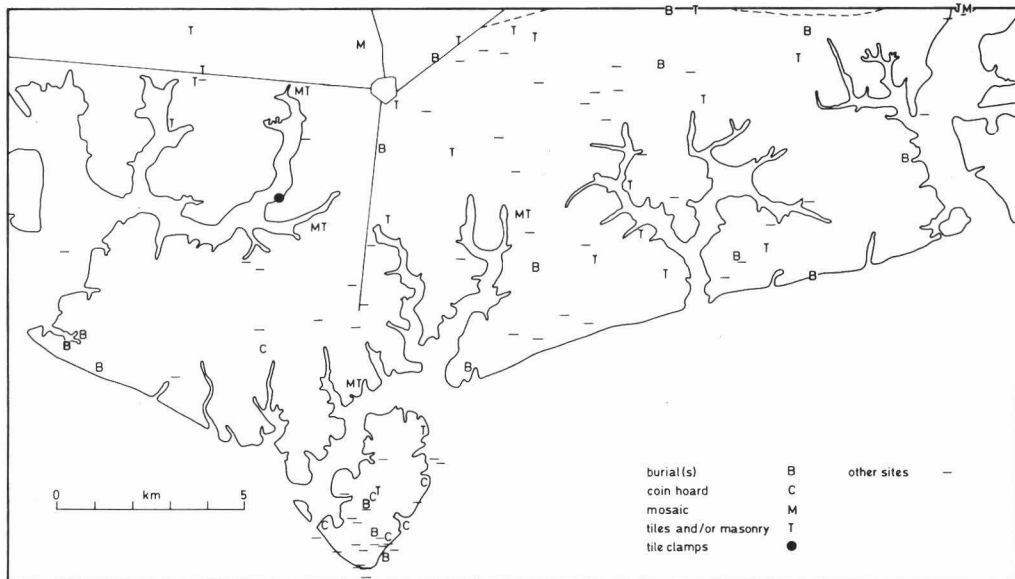


Fig. 6. Thematic map of sites

Conquest pottery (cf Fig. 5). One could find historical reasons to explain both the prominence of 1st and 2nd C material on the one hand, and the relative lack of 4th C finds on the other. Cunliffe has noted a similar picture for the territory of the Regni as a whole, where there are large numbers of 1st and 2nd C farmsteads, while few dating from the second half of the 4th C are known.⁴⁸ However, it would seem best to reserve detailed judgements for the area of this Gazetteer until at least one rural site spanning the whole period (and preferably extending outside it as well) has been scientifically studied in depth. As this article makes apparent, there should be many potential candidates.

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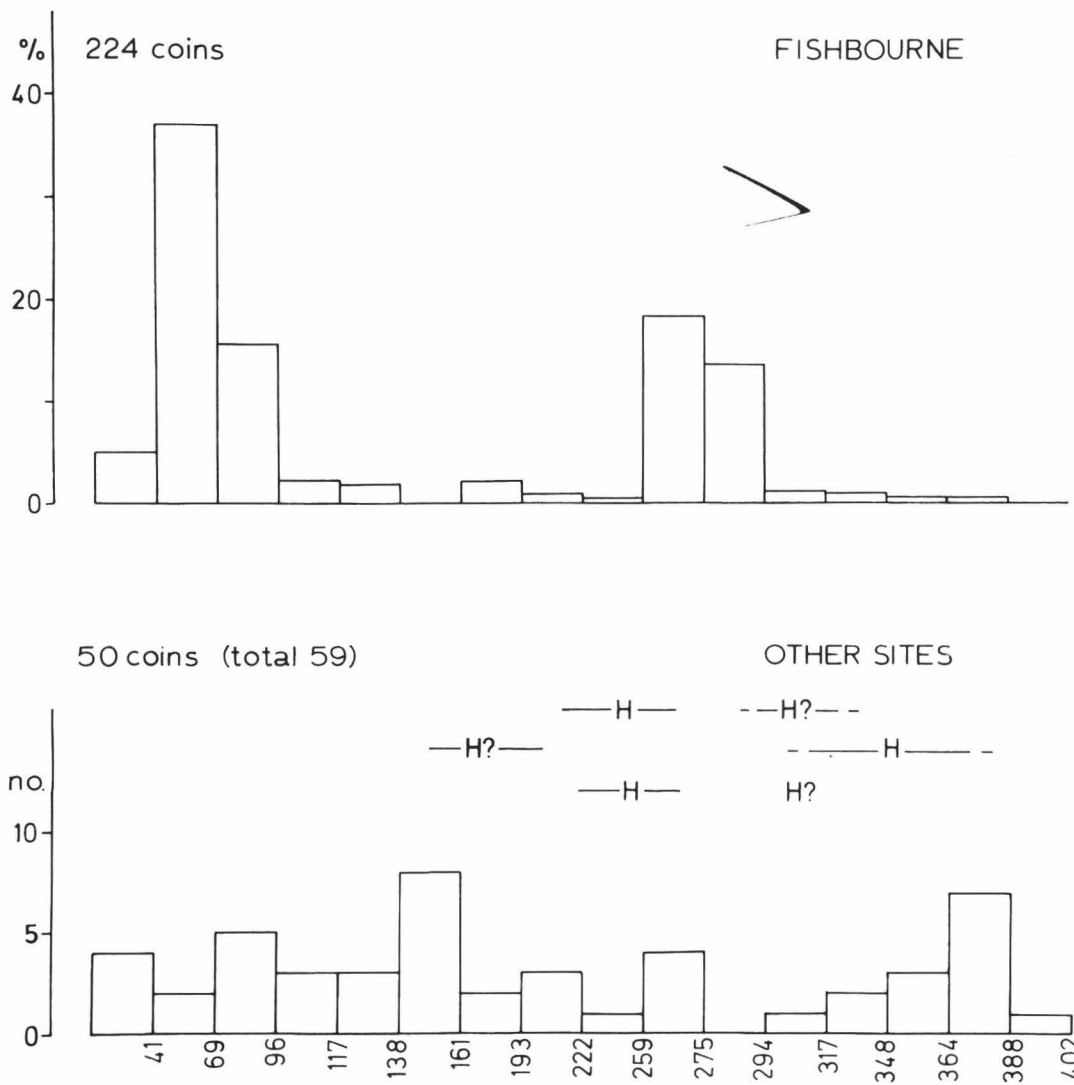


Fig. 7. Coin histograms, Data for Fishbourne from Reece, *Britannia* 3 (1972), Table 1.

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