

EXCAVATIONS AT LANCING DOWN, WEST SUSSEX 1980

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(with pottery report by David Rudling, B.Sc., M.A.)

Excavations at the site of the known Romano-British temple near Lancing Clump revealed traces of a small, square wooden structure, 3.5 m across, adjacent to the temple. It is suggested that this represents a late Iron Age shrine, which preceded the temple on the same site. The temple masonry itself was in a poor state of preservation. In addition, a stretch of temenos gully was examined and was shown to have been preceded by at least two phases of post holes. Pottery from the site provides little evidence for use of the temple into the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D.

INTRODUCTION

The Romano-British temple at Lancing (NGR TQ 177 066) is situated on a chalk ridge overlooking the English channel to the south, and the Adur valley to the east (Fig. 1). The site was originally marked by a conspicuous mound, 4 ft (1.2 m) high; when dug into by a Mr. Medhurst in 1828, the masonry foundations of the temple were revealed (Frere 1940, ably summarises the nineteenth-century findings). The area cleared was sufficient to expose not only the full extent of the surviving temple walls, but also a number of cremations around the edge of the temple; these latter are the outline features marked to the south and west of the temple in Fig. 2. The masonry foundations were 3 ft (0.9 m) thick, of mortared flint nodules with some chalk, in the classic 'square-within-a-square' shape. The outer square was 40 ft (12.5 m) across, the inner *cella* 16 ft (5 m) across, with a gap (entrance) in the centre of the eastern wall. The *cella* was paved with roughly-shaped sandstone tesserae, and the outer face of its walls were faced with plaster. The burials discovered around the temple displayed a wide range of dates and artefacts, from a Bronze Age urn inverted over cremated bones (4L in Fig. 2), to a number of Romano-British cremations, with pots, coins, fibulae, rings and combs. Many unstratified finds were also made, including much Roman pottery, some early and late Iron Age pottery, and coins of the late Iron Age and Roman period (Frere 1940).

After its discovery in 1828, the temple remains were opened to the public (advertised admission prices were: adults, one shilling; children, sixpence), but in 1833, the entire site was grubbed up by the farmer and covered over with soil so that no vestige remained. As a result, the precise location of the temple was uncertain until its rediscovery in 1929 by two masters at Lancing College, Mr. Handford and Mr. Biddle, who were able to trace wall-footings in a trial trench.

Much of the central part of the temple now lies beneath a footpath running up from Lancing village (the path follows the fence-line in Fig. 2, on the other side from the 1980 excavation). The north-east and south-west corners of the temple masonry both project into ploughed fields, and are therefore vulnerable to continuing plough-damage. It was therefore decided to carry out a limited rescue excavation of part of the temple site for two reasons:

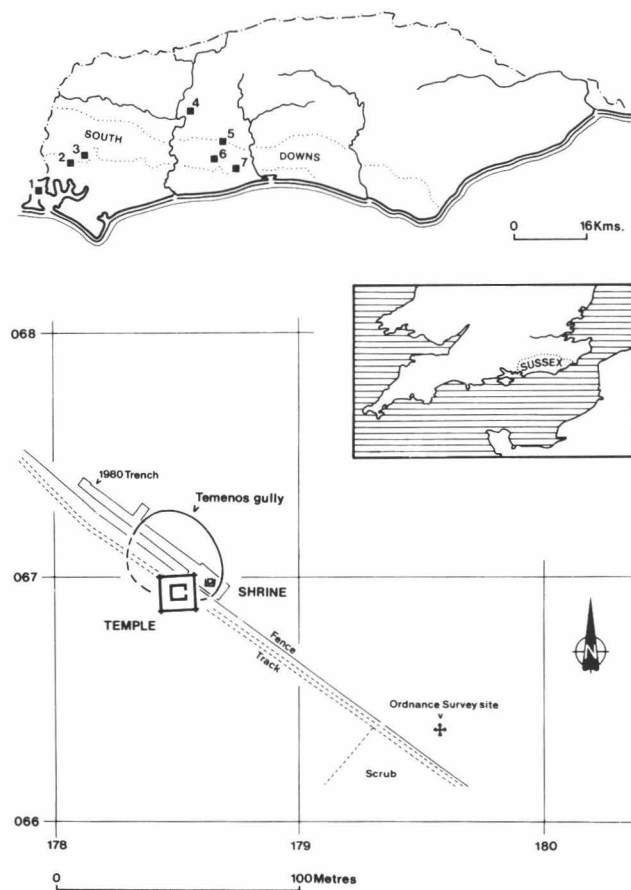


Fig. 1. Lancing Down 1980. Site location, showing other nearby Romano-British temples.
Key to numbered sites: 1 Hayling Island; 2 Ratham Mill; 3 Bow Hill; 4 Pulborough; 5 Chanctonbury;
6 Muntham Court; 7 Lancing.

- (i) the presence of late Iron Age pottery and coins on the site (Frere 1940) suggested the possibility of a late Iron Age precursor to the Romano-British temple. If an Iron Age building had existed, it might survive in the form of post holes, which could have been missed in the nineteenth century investigations, but which might be detected by modern area excavation.
- (ii) the Archaeological Officer for West Sussex recently reported the existence on an aerial photograph of a dark, oval soil-mark, 40 m maximum diameter, surrounding the temple site (Plate 1, and Aldsworth 1976, 328). It was thought worth establishing the nature and date of this feature, because of the possibility that it was a temenos, i.e. the ditch defining and enclosing the sacred area. No such feature had been mentioned during the nineteenth-century excavations.

A three-week excavation was therefore carried out in September, 1980 by the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit, under the direction of the author.

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ROMANO-CELTIC TEMPLE & IRON AGE SHRINE

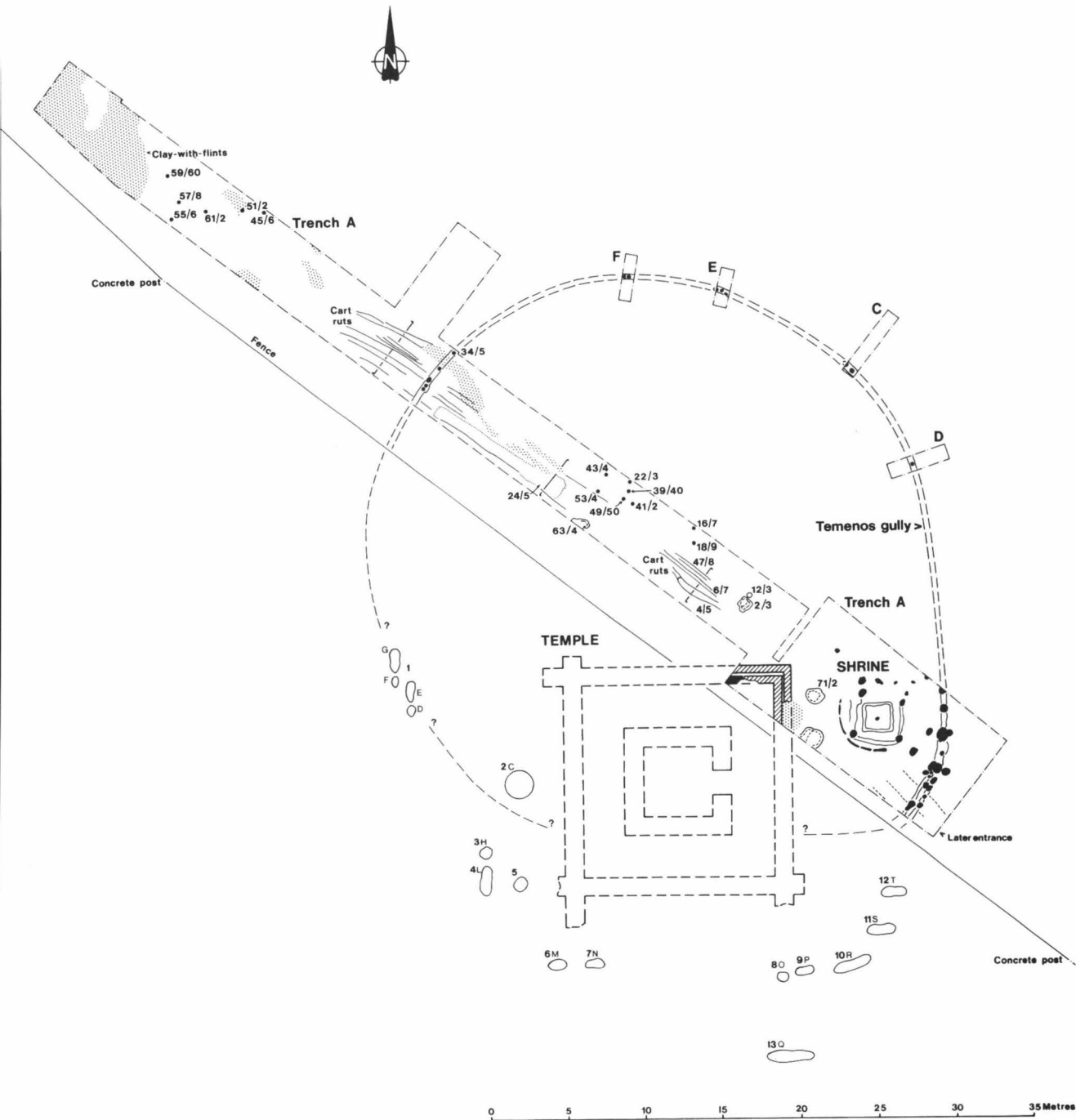


Fig. 2. Lancing Down 1980. General site plan, with location of the nineteenth century finds shown relative to the 1980 excavation.

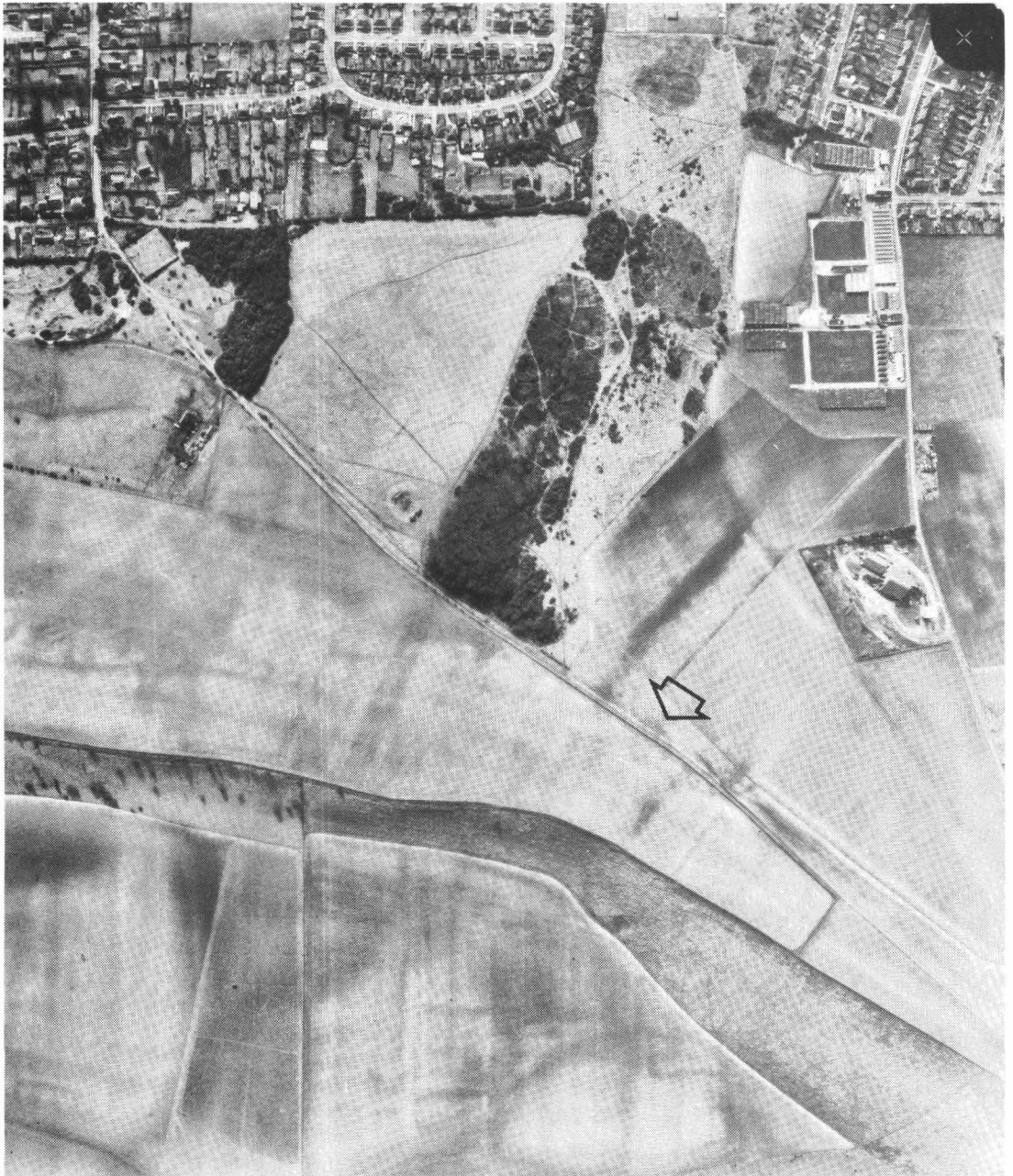


Plate 1 Lancing Down 1980. Aerial view of the site, with the dark, oval soil mark (corresponding to the temenos) indicated by black arrow. Reproduced by kind permission of the County Planning Officer, West Sussex County Council.

EXCAVATION

Using the aerial photograph as a guide (Plate 1), work was begun on trench A, which was laid out so as to cut across the centre of the area enclosed by the oval soil-mark (Fig. 2). A machine was used to clear plough soil from most of trench A; the soil cover was thin, up to a maximum of 25 cm, deep, over a subsoil that was mainly Upper Chalk, though with irregular patches of Clay-with-flints. It was quickly established that the oval soil-mark corresponded to a gully (the temenos), and it also became apparent that the temple was not located centrally within the area defined by the temenos (Figs. 1 and 2). Eventually, it was necessary to extend trench A by hand at its south-eastern end to include the area overlying the temple and the structure described as a 'shrine' (Fig. 2). Trenches C-F, each 1 m wide, were all dug by hand to check the position of the temenos.

It may be appropriate here to explain the numbering system used for the post holes, pits, etc., found during the excavation. This took a form slightly different from usual, in anticipation of details of the excavation being stored on a computer. Essentially, any pit, post hole or ditch is given a number for which the dimensions of the whole feature, and other relevant details, are recorded. The various layers within these features (or contexts, as they are now referred to) are then each given separate numbers, and the information relevant to these is also recorded. Thus, pit 71 contained a uniform fill 72 (and no other type of fill) and is thus labelled in plans and sections as 71/2 (Figs. 2 and 3). Pottery from this pit is then referred to as coming from the fill 72, and *not* from pit 71, and this is why it is necessary to put both numbers in the illustrations.

The temenos

The substantial dark soil-mark on the aerial photograph (Plate 1) corresponded to a shallow gully, only 25 cm deep in places, and with a maximum depth of 45 cm and maximum width of 65 cm. A number of post holes, of varying sizes, were found at intervals along this gully, and it was possible to establish a sequence of events, in which the digging of the gully itself represents the final phase (except for one late post hole), as follows:

Phase (i) A fence-line of relatively small posts, represented by the shallow post holes 122/3 and 128/9 (Fig. 3), and 34/5, 65/6 and 67/8 in trench A, and the post holes in trenches C-F (Fig. 4). Further subdivision is possible; e.g. in trench E, three post holes, very close together, may not all be contemporary. Some of these post holes have relatively squared corners, and possibly some shallower ones were completely obliterated by the phase (iii) gully.

Phase (ii) This consists of the two largest post holes in trench A, namely 110/1 and 126/7 (Fig. 3). The sequence is shown by the fact that 110/1 cuts 128/9, and by the general similarity of 110/1 and 126/7. Clearly, two post holes do not make a fence line, and these two, because of their size (80 cm deep), could conceivably represent a gateway.

Phase (iii) The temenos gully is then dug approximately along the line of these previous post-hole phases. This part of the sequence is established by sections showing the gully (81/2) cutting through the top of the post holes 110/1 and 126/7 (Fig. 5).

There is, in addition, the odd post hole 112/3, which in section (Fig. 5) clearly cuts through the gully fill, and must therefore be later. It should also be pointed out that not all the post holes are accounted for in this sequence, and there could be further subdivisions.

Phases (ii) and (iii) can be firmly dated to the early Roman period by the associated pottery; phase (i) is undated because of lack of finds. The temenos gully of phase (iii) extended as far southwards as the top of post hole 126/7 (Fig. 3), and therefore corresponds to the

entrance structure defined by two or possibly three parallel lines of unmortared flint nodules running south-east/north-west in the south-east corner of trench A.

These last surviving traces of flint (?) walls overlay a further, though separate, stretch of the temenos, best appreciated by comparing Fig. 3, showing the flints *in situ*, with Fig. 4, showing the features underlying the flints. This part of the temenos differed considerably from that described above; instead of a shallow gully, it consisted of two parallel narrow slots with post holes in the bottom. Where the fill had not been badly disturbed by rabbits, it was hard-packed and chalky, as if to suggest deliberate backfilling, unlike the gully 81/2, which appeared to have silted up naturally. Unfortunately, the relationship between the slots 150/1 and 152/3, and the sequence of phases (i) to (iii) outlined above, could not be established as there was no intercutting of features. Slots 150/1 and 152/3 did, however, yield early Roman pottery.

The temple (Figs. 2 and 3)

Only the extreme north-east corner of the temple's outer wall was uncovered, and little of the masonry survived. A single thickness of mortared flint nodules was present, plus a little unstructured rubble. Unexpectedly, these footings took the form of two narrow, parallel features, which together made up the 3 ft (0.9 m) thickness recorded in the nineteenth century. There was no sign of the two buttresses then observed (Frere 1940, Fig. 16). Mr. Handford, one of the two Lancing College masters who relocated the temple in 1929, visited the 1980 excavations, and was able to confirm that the corner of the masonry corresponded to the footings which he had found 51 years previously, beneath the footpath.

The shrine (Figs. 2 and 3; Plate 2)

This interesting structure consisted of a shallow, four-sided square gully, 2.0 m across, inside a shallow, 3-sided square gully, 3.0 m across. Outside the latter were extremely faint traces of a narrow, circular feature (120/1), 3.5 m in diameter. The outer square gully had four post holes, one in each corner, and the inner square gully had two shallow ones, at the south-east and south-west corners respectively. There was also a central post hole (79/80), which was not placed quite symmetrically within the gullies, but did appear to be precisely at the centre of the circle partly defined by feature 120/1. The fill of all these features was chalky, and might indicate deliberate backfilling.

This structure clearly shows the 'square-within-a-square' layout, similar to that of the nearby masonry temple, though on a much smaller scale. This, and the similarity in alignment to that of the temple, suggest a religious function, hence its description as a 'shrine'. The post holes and gullies making up this feature were in most cases only a few centimetres deep, and therefore represent the fortunate survival of what was presumably a small, wooden structure.

Other features

Individual post holes (not part of a structure) A number of these are shown in Figs. 2 and 3; almost all are undated. Some of those at the south-eastern end of trench A may relate either to the shrine or the temenos.

Pits Three oval pits were found (2/3, 71/2, 124/5), all of a similar depth (50–60 cm). The fill of each of these was characterised by a large number of flint nodules, with only a few small scraps of Romano-British pottery. The contrast between these features and those of a similar size found in the nineteenth century to the south and west of the temple, containing cremation burials and numerous artefacts, suggests that these pits may have been dug out in the nineteenth century, though not apparently noted at that time.



Plate 2 Lancing Down 1980. General view of the south-eastern end of trench A, from the south-east. The dark linear feature in the foreground is the unexcavated temenos gully, the shrine is in the centre, and in the left background is the corner of the temple masonry. Scale 2 m.

Cart ruts A number of long, shallow, roughly parallel features were found in two groups in trench A (Fig. 2). These were interpreted as cart ruts and were dated, by the latest pottery they contained, to the nineteenth century. They are presumably the result of farm vehicles going along the ridge past the temple site.

The artefacts

These were disappointing both in quantity and variety compared with the remarkable finds made in the nineteenth century. Most of the pottery was in small abraded sherds, and there was

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IRON AGE SHRINE

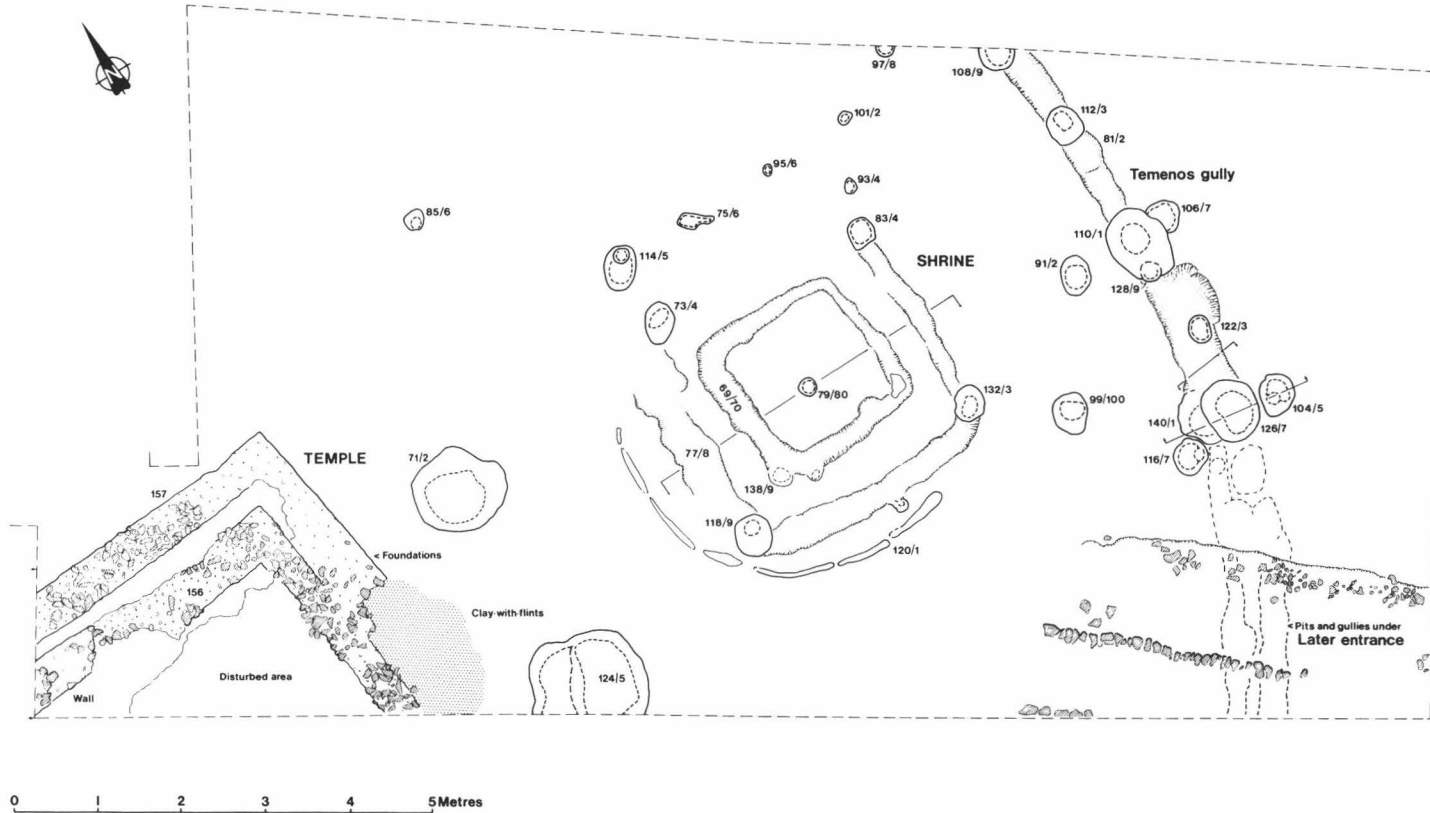
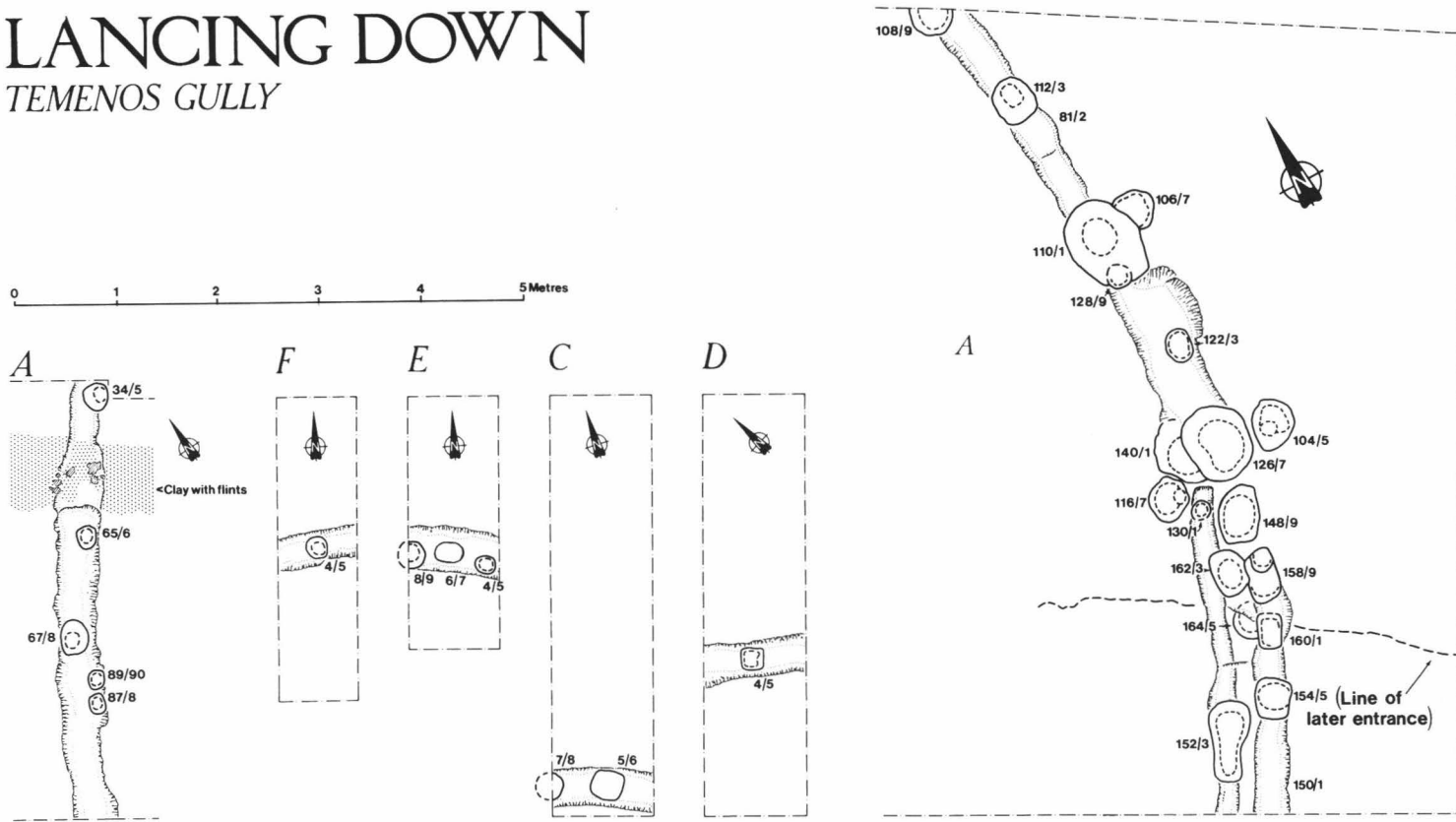


Fig. 3. Lancing Down 1980. Detailed plan of the south-east end of trench A, showing remains of small shrine, corner of temple masonry and temenos gully.

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TEMENOS GULLY



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Fig. 4. Lancing Down 1980. Detailed plan of various stretches of temenos gully.

only a handful of metal objects, the bulk of which were poorly preserved iron nails. The overall date range covers the late Iron Age and Roman period, although there were a few sherds of early Iron Age pottery. About 90 rough sandstone tesserae were also recovered from the topsoil, and some rotary quern fragments from three of the post holes. In general, there was little to indicate the religious nature of the site.

It is worth remembering that following the temple's discovery, and subsequent grubbing out by the farmer, it was re-covered with soil, which may not originally have come from the site. Consequently, any association of topsoil finds with the temple site must be made with caution.

DISCUSSION

The most interesting discovery of the 1980 excavation was the identification of the small square shrine. Its ground plan and proximity to the masonry temple are powerful arguments in favour of a religious significance. The few potsherds found in shrine contexts do not themselves provide any evidence as to function, but fortunately do strongly support an immediately pre-Conquest date (e.g. sherds of terra rubra, discussed in the pottery report below). As to the appearance of the shrine above ground, we can only speculate.

This late Iron Age shrine, the first of its kind to be found in Sussex, joins the small but heterogeneous group of square structures of religious significance known from Iron Age contexts in southern Britain. Most of these have been found inside late Iron Age hill forts. The nearest example in size to the Lancing structure is the smallest of the four reported square structures inside Danebury, Hampshire (Cunliffe 1976, Fig. 10); these were all single square structures, from 3 m across to 9 m across. Other examples are known from the early Iron Age settlement at Heathrow, Middlesex (10 m across, square-within-a-square; Grimes 1961), from the hill fort at South Cadbury, Somerset (5 m by 4 m, single square, with a 'porch'; Alcock 1970), and from Winchester (a setting of four post holes 4 m across, inside a circular gully, 10 m across; Biddle 1965, Plate LXVIII). The Lancing shrine is therefore one of the smallest of the group, and the only one with evidence of an enclosing circular structure (only partly preserved) immediately around it. Much of the Lancing shrine is remarkably shallow and, with ploughing a little deeper, only the four outermost post holes would survive, leaving a four-post-hole structure, 3 m across.

The poor survival of the temple masonry was disappointing though not unexpected. The small area exposed does nevertheless raise questions about the reliability of the nineteenth-century plan of the site. The absence of buttresses in the 1980 excavation has already been commented on, but the two parallel lines of masonry, which form the single outer wall on the nineteenth-century plan, appear to have two separate shallow footings (Fig. 6) and could perhaps represent different building phases.

The pottery report (below) shows no sign of a break within the late Iron Age/early Roman sequence, and David Rudling suggests, on the basis of the pottery, that the masonry temple at Lancing was built rather earlier than the temple at Chanctonbury, 5 km away (Bedwin 1980), and also went out of use earlier. An early post-Conquest date for the construction of the Lancing temple may also imply that the wooden shrine was relatively short-lived.

The temenos, with its sequence of post holes, followed by a final gully, proved surprisingly complex. In the section on excavation (above), evidence is presented for at least two post-hole phases; it is unfortunate that the initial phase, represented by the small post holes, cannot be dated, and therefore no association with the shrine can be demonstrated.

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Sections through temenos gully (81/2) and associated post holes

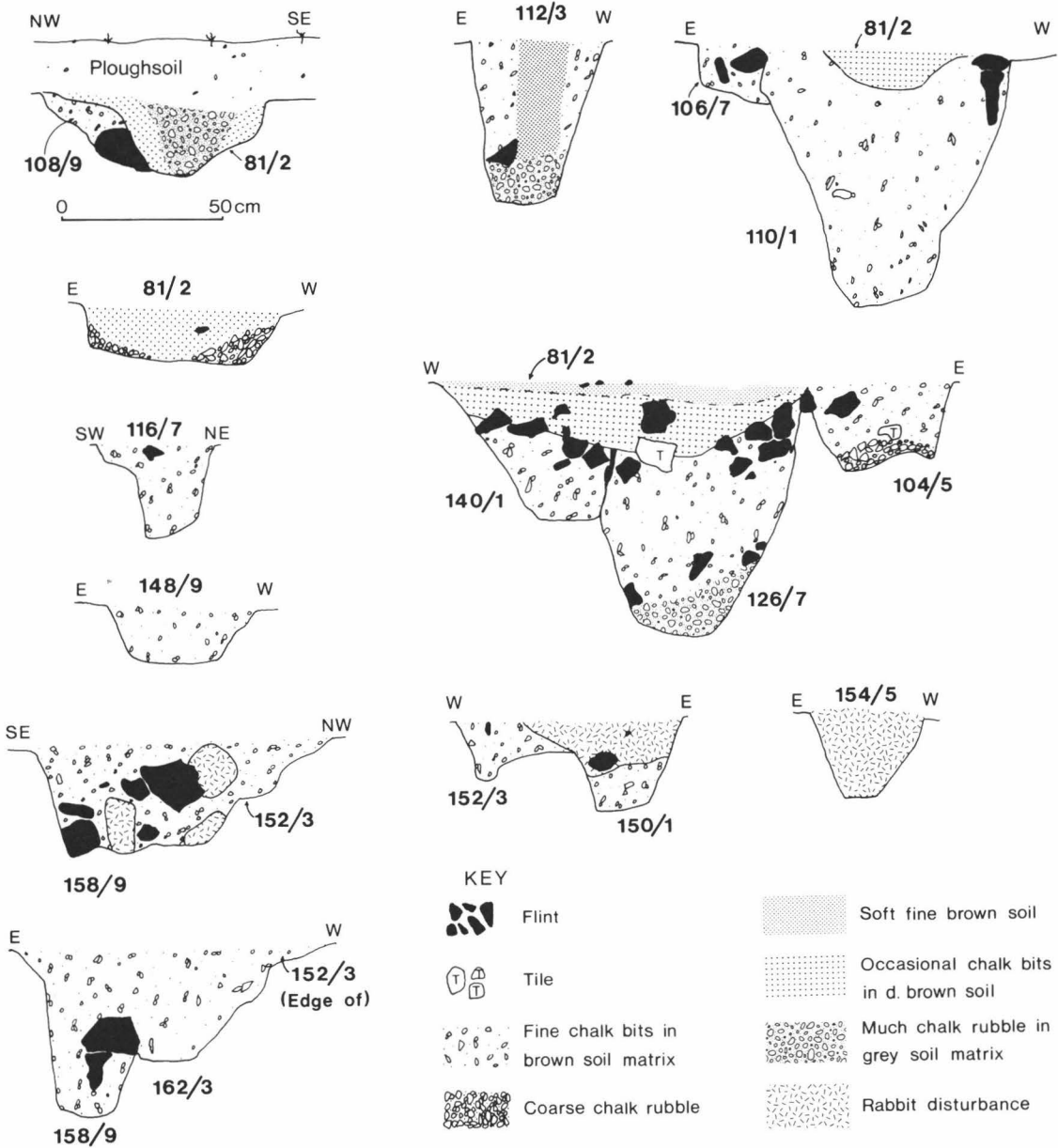
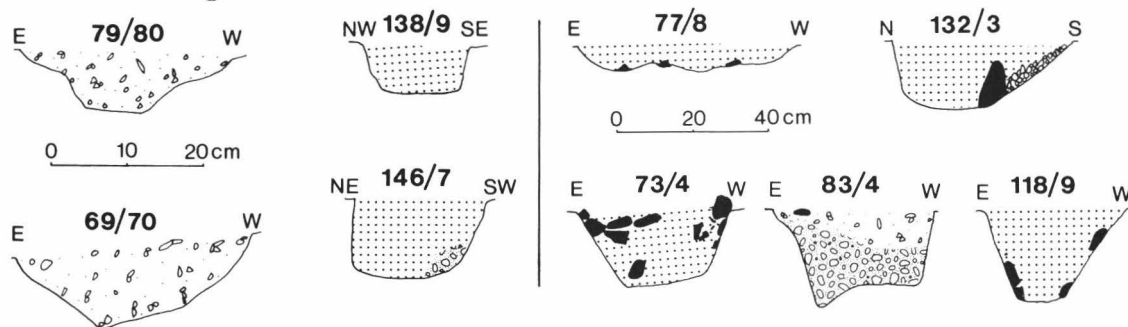


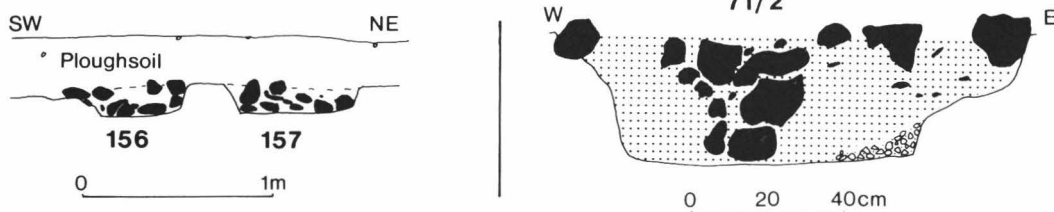
Fig. 5. Lancing Down 1980. Sections through temenos gully. Post holes sectioned centrally.

LANCING DOWN

Sections through shrine



Sections through temple masonry and nearby pit



KEY

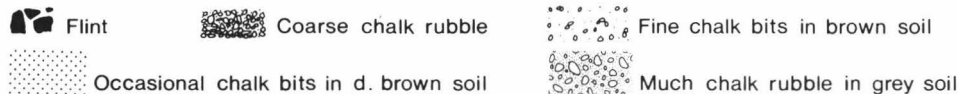


Fig. 6. Lancing Down 1980. Sections through shrine and temple masonry. Note different scales.

The relationship between the temple and the temenos on the southern side is worth consideration. Here, the aerial photograph is less useful as the line of the soil-mark becomes blurred (Plate 1). It is interesting that a number of the cremations found in the nineteenth century were apparently in line with the temenos (D, E, F, G in Fig. 2): were these burials in a ditch, or does the temenos disappear at this point? Only further excavation can settle this question.

There remains to be considered the settlements of those who used this site in the late Iron Age and early Roman period. Evidence for contemporary settlement nearby is scanty. Frere (1940) mentions Roman finds (though not precisely dated) in North Lancing, near the Manor, just over 1 km south-east of the site, and there are two known late second-century cremations, one from Sompting (Ainsworth and Ratcliffe-Densham 1974) and Crabtree Lane, North Lancing (Kelly and Dudley forthcoming). To the north of the temple site, faint traces of lynchets can be seen on the slopes of Cowbottom, and these could be Romano-British and/or prehistoric. To the east of the temple, there could have been settlement on the edge of the Adur

valley, now perhaps covered by alluvium from river flooding. In short, although there are hints of Roman occupation in the area, especially to the south of the temple, the main focus (or foci) has yet to be precisely located.

SPECIALIST REPORTS

*The pottery (by D. R. Rudling)**Introduction*

The excavation yielded 1,723 sherds, most of which were very fragmented and abraded. Unfortunately, the infilling of the site in the nineteenth century, perhaps with soil from elsewhere, means that there is a possibility of intrusive material in unstratified layers which may not relate to the temple site at all.

Aims of this report

1. The provision of a general date range for the site.
2. A study of the fabric proportions present in all contexts.
3. A more detailed analysis of the pottery (with a particular emphasis on dating) from specific 'groups' of contexts.

Method used

1. The pottery from all contexts was sorted into groups of wares on the basis of a visual assessment of the fabric.
2. The fabric groups were quantified by weight and sherd count and details of forms and decoration recorded. This level of data forms the Archive Report (stored at the Institute of Archaeology, London).
3. A representative selection of the material is described and drawn where appropriate.

*Fabric types**Late Bronze Age—Iron Age*

1. Flint-gritted Wares

Variations in the size and numerical presence of these grits was continuous rather than discrete and no attempt at subdivision was undertaken. (For discussions on such wares see Hamilton 1980 and forthcoming).

2. Sandy Wares

Reduced buff/black ware dominated by coarse and medium quartz sand. A few sherds contain small pieces of flint. It is possible that some of the sherds listed in Table I as belonging to fabric type 12 may in fact belong to this category since unfortunately the small size and abraded nature of many of the sherds made precise identification very difficult.

Late Iron Age—Roman

3. Hand-made grog-tempered Wares

This was the most common fabric at Lancing and detailed fabric descriptions are not given for individual pots in the catalogue. The fabric, which has a soapy feel, is soft to hard, grey or brown to black and primarily filled with coarse grog. Other inclusions were flint, siltstone, ironstone and sometimes shell. The fabric first appears in Sussex before the conquest and seems to have been continuously made, particularly in East Sussex, until the end of the Romano-British period at least. The early varieties of this fabric are generally more highly fired, and often contain more flint than Romano-British examples. Such early varieties are associated with Eastern Atrebatic types, including South-Eastern 'B' storage vessels and necked bowls or jars (Hamilton 1977, 97). The Romano-British varieties are of the type defined as 'East Sussex Ware' (Green 1977, 154).

4. Terra Rubra.

5. Terra Nigra.

6. Gallo-Belgic 'Camulodunum' Ware.

7. Samian Ware or Terra Sigillata.

8. Amphorae.

9. Light, self-coloured Wares.

Mainly white, buff, orange or pink, and of varying textures from very well levigated to medium sandy. Such fabrics are usually dated to the late first second century. (For possible sources see Rudling 1980, 204-5).

10. Fine textured grey Wares.

11. Fine to medium textured sandy wares with smooth micaceous surfaces.

12. Medium textured sandy, mainly 'grey' wares.

For discussion on the 'grey' wares see Green (1977, 156) and Fulford (1978, 119-20).

13. Black Burnished Ware, Category 1 (BB1).

14. Mortaria.

15. Central Gaulish Colour-Coated Ware.

16. New Forest or Argonne Red Colour-Coated Ware.

Post-Medieval

17. Various nineteenth/twentieth-century wares.

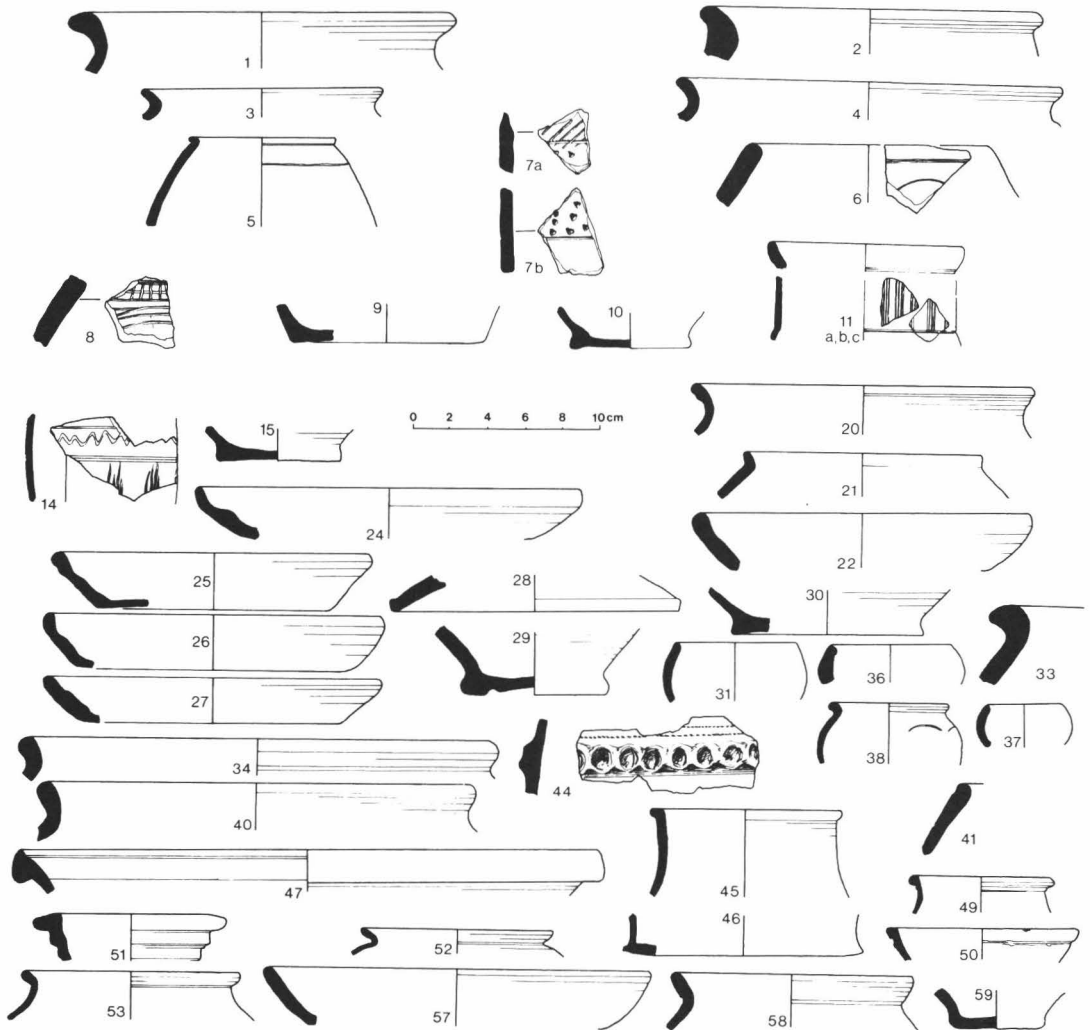


Fig. 7 Lancing Down 1980. Pottery.

Group A: The 'shrine'. First century, possibly pre-Conquest.

Nos. 1-10 are in grog-tempered ware (Fig. 7).

1-3 Jars with everted rims. Context 69.

4 Jar with everted rim. Context 73.

5 Ovoid jar with bead rim (cf. Bishopstone 84). Late first century? Adjoining sherds from contexts 69 and 77.

6 Jar with simple rim beneath which is an incised groove. Below the groove is an incised 'eyebrow'. (For details of 'eyebrow' pottery see Green 1980). First century. Context 77.

7a + b Body sherds from a pot decorated with a band of stamped triangles in between two grooves. Above are incised oblique strokes. Late Iron Age. Context 69.

8 Body sherd with incised decoration. Context 69.

9-10 Base sherds. Context 69.

11a + b + c Girth-beaker in fine orange Terra Rubra (cf. Camulodunum 84). Decoration in the form of a band of groups of vertical combed lines. Claudian at the latest. Small sherds of this vessel came from several contexts in the shrine complex (69, 73 and 77) and elsewhere (81, 114 and the ploughsoil).

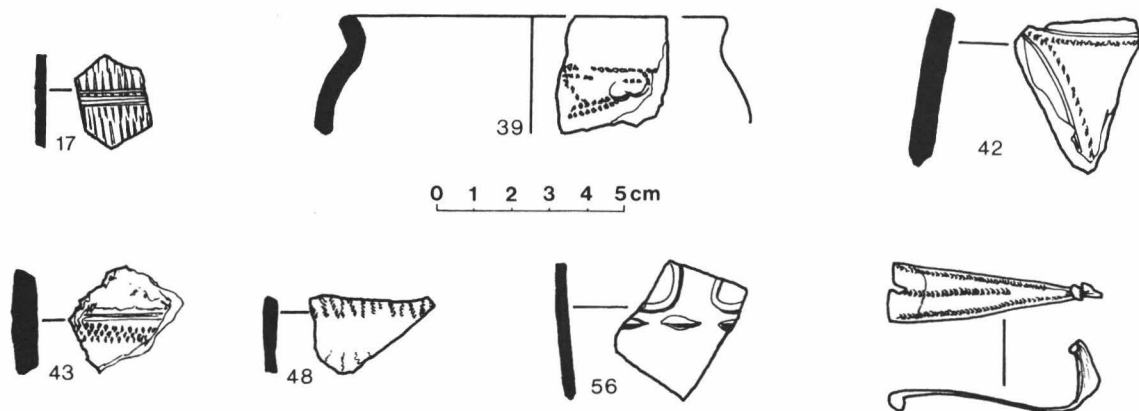


Fig. 8. Lancing Down 1980. Pottery and bronze fibula.

Group B: The temple foundations. ?First century.

Unfortunately, only 48 sherds were recovered from contexts 156 and 157, and almost all of these are undiagnostic.

12 Not illustrated. Jar with everted rim. Grog-tempered ware. Context 157.

Group C: The two very large post holes, 110 and 126, in the temenos boundary system.

13 Not illustrated. Small body sherd of South Gaulish Samian Ware. Flavian—early second century. Context 126.

14 Upright beaker with bands of incised decoration. Fine textured micaceous fabric with orange exterior, buff interior and grey external surface. Late first—early second century. Context 110.

15 Base sherd. Micaceous sandy fabric with grey core, buff exterior and grey surfaces. Context 110.

16 Not illustrated. Two rilled body sherds of sandy grey ware. Context 110.

Group D: The temenos gully (Trench A, 81).

17 Body sherd from an imported, rouletted beaker. A fine, grey-black Terra Nigra type fabric. First century, could be pre-Flavian. Fig. 8.

18 Not illustrated. Body sherd from a flagon in a fine textured ware with cream-coloured external surface and orange-buff interior.

19 Not illustrated. Two small body sherds from a beaker decorated with applied pellets. Fine textured grey ware. First century.

20 Necked jar. Sandy grey ware.

Group E: The temenos gully (Trench C, 2).

21 Jar. Grog-tempered ware.

22 Platter. Gallo-Belgic derivative. Medium sandy grey fabric with light brown untreated surfaces (cf. Slonk Hill Fig. 19.27). First century.

Group G: The temenos gully (Trench F, 3).

23 Not illustrated. Body sherd with incised eyebrow decoration. Grog-tempered ware. First century.

Group J: Post holes in trench A to the south of contexts 104/126/140.

24 Platter. Gallo-Belgic derivative. Sandy grey ware with smooth micaceous surfaces. Fishbourne Type 14. First century. Context 116.

Group K: Contexts 150 and 152, sealed by the later entrance.

25—27 Platters. Gallo-Belgic derivatives. Fine/medium sandy wares with smooth micaceous surfaces. First century. Context 150.

28 Lid; medium sandy grey ware. First-second century. Context 150.

29 Footing base, probably from a flagon. Burnt. Sandy buff ware. First-second century. Context 150.

Group L: Post holes 91, 114, near the shrine.

30 Base sherd; micaceous sandy orange-buff fabric. Burnt. Context 91.

Group M: (?) Disturbed pits (2, 71, 124) and post hole (12).

31 Bowl with simple rim. Flint-gritted ware with reduced core and oxidised orange surfaces. Iron Age. Context 12.

32 Not illustrated. Body sherd from a flagon, perhaps Camulodunum 163. Gallo-Belgic fine white ware with red 'grog' streaks. Pre-Flavian. Context 124.

Group N: The ploughsoil.

Some of this soil is likely to have been brought to the site when the remains of the temple were grubbed up and the surrounding area covered over again during the nineteenth century. Nos. 33-5 are in Iron Age flint-gritted wares.

- 33 Shoulder jar with flaring, flattened rim.
 34 Round shouldered jar or bowl with upturned, flattened rim.
 35 Not illustrated. Body sherd with fingernail impressions.
 36 Bowl with folded-over rim. Coarse sand-tempered grey ware. Iron Age.
 Nos. 37-45 are in grog-tempered ware.
 37 Bowl with simple rim.
 38 Round-shouldered bowl/jar.
 39 'S' shaped bowl with rouletted and stamped decoration. Late Iron Age. Fig. 8.
 40 Jar with upright simple rim.
 41 Ovoid jar with bead rim and groove. First century.
 42 Body sherd with incised and rouletted eyebrow decoration (cf. Cunliffe 1975, 344;4). Fig. 8.
 43 Body sherd with groove and rouletted or combed decoration. Fig. 8.
 44 Jar with thumb raised band and rouletted decoration. On account of the rouletting, this sherd is probably late Iron Age. Thumb raised bands, however, may well survive as late as the third century (Green 1980).
 45 Imitation of a Belgic butt-beaker (cf. Frere 1940, Fig. 14.29). First century.
 46 Base sherd from a pedestal beaker. (cf. Camulodunum 74). Terra Rubra. Sandy orange paste, with traces of a red slip on the exterior. Possibly from Rheims. Late Augustan-Tiberian.
 47 (Note by V. Rigby) Rim sherd from a large platter, one of the several forms included in Camulodunum form 6 (Fig. 46.6), in TR 1 (A)—pale pink, sandy textured ware, with very worn coral slip on the upper surface. The detail of the moulding suggests that it is from the same source, if not from the same vessel as a sherd found during previous excavations (Frere 1940, 158-69). This platter form is always in TR1(A), although no stamped examples have been found, Rheims (Marne) is the most likely area and c. 10 B.C. to A.D. 20 the most likely period for its manufacture. Comparatively rare in Britain, its distribution is a restricted and a somewhat unusual one for early Gallo-Belgic imports, in that besides Camulodunum and Braughing-Puckeridge, Herts., it includes Leicester, Baldock, Herts., and Burgh-by-Woodbridge, Suffolk. This group of sites has so far produced only restricted ranges of G-B forms and fabrics, including only small numbers of other late Augustan vessels. At Lancing, the range of imported forms is even more restricted, with 3 beakers in TR from the recent excavations, and from previous ones, a plain platter, probably in micaceous terra nigra rather than T.N., and so Camulodunum form 1, imported from Central Gaul and late Augustan in date. There seems to be no likely explanation for this distribution, other than that the sites were sufficiently wealthy to want imported fine wares, and had the necessary trading connections to obtain them.
 48 Body sherd from a butt-beaker with rouletted decoration. cf. Camulodunum 112/115. Fine, white Terra Rubra. (?) Rheims area. Late Augustan. Fig. 8.
 49 Butt-beaker. Fine, white Gallo-Belgic 'Camulodunum' ware with red 'grog' streaks. cf. Camulodunum 113. Claudian at the latest.
 50 Flagon with multiple-ringed neck. Fine white ware. cf. Fishbourne Type 109. Pre-Flavian.
 51 Flagon with multiple-ringed neck in a sandy white fabric. Perhaps a Wiggonholt product? cf. Wiggonholt 26. First-early second century.
 52 Beaker with everted rim. Fine grey ware.
 53 Globular jar. Sandy ware exhibiting a 'sandwich' effect of grey surfaces, then orange and finally a grey core.
 54 Not illustrated. Body sherd from an amphora. A fairly fine buff fabric with some quartz and shell inclusions. Possibly Dressel I or Camulodunum 186. First century.
 55 Not illustrated. Mortarium with hooked flange. Fairly fine, cream-coloured fabric with grey core. Possibly a local product. Second century.
 56 Beaker with applied barbotine decoration. A fine, hard, grey fabric with a black slip. A (?) Central Gaul product. c. 190-250. Fig. 8.
 57 Dish. Black Burnished Ware Category 1. Third-fourth century.
 58 Jar with everted rim. Sandy grey ware (imitation BB1). Third-fourth century.
 59 Base sherd with groove on the underside. Sandy orange ware with red colour-coat. New Forest or Argonne Ware. Late third-fourth century.

Groups F, H and I consist of very few sherds, none being worth describing in detail in this report (but see Table 1).

Group F: The temenos gully, trench D, 2.

Group H: Post hole 112 cutting the temenos gully in trench A.

Group I: Post holes 104 and 140 possibly associated with the (?) original temenos entrance.

Discussion

On the basis of the small quantities of pottery tabled and described above, it is clear that the main period of activity at the site was during the late Iron Age and early Romano-British periods, with very little evidence for later use, a fact already noted by Professor Frere (1940, 167). Most of the pottery associated with the shrine/temple complex belongs to the first and early second century, after which there are only odd sherds, most of which come from the ploughsoil and could therefore be intrusive (as discussed above). The very small quantity of Samian Ware is interesting and perhaps hints at a decline in the use of the site during the second century. On the basis of the 1980 finds, there is no real reason to suspect that the temple complex remained in regular use during the third or fourth centuries. It is

interesting to compare these findings with those from the nearby temple at Chanctonbury (Bedwin 1980), and it is clear that the sanctuary at Lancing is much the earlier and also went out of regular use first.

The finds from the shrine complex suggest that this is probably of late Iron Age date and certainly Claudian at the latest. The scarcity and nature of the finds from the temple foundations make the dating of its construction a problem, but the pottery that was found is consistent with the theory that after the conquest, an existing Iron Age sanctuary was modernised as a Romano-Celtic temple of normal type (Frere 1940, 167). There is no dating evidence for the first phase of the temenos boundary (the fence line of small post holes) and what there is for the second and third phases (plus post hole 112) is not particularly helpful, but note that phases (ii) and (iii) both contain material dating to the first-early second century.

TABLE I
Proportions of pottery fabrics by sherd count

Context Groups	Fabric Types																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
A	4	9	167	12					6		3	19						220
B	9	2	30						1		1	15						48
C	2		12				1					7	25					47
D	3		32	1	1				8	1	7	35						88
E	2		8									1						11
F			4															4
G			3															3
H									1			3						4
I										1	2	1						4
J			19						1		1	15						36
K			10						3		5	18						36
L			2	1							1	1						5
M	29	3	177			1			2		1	57	3					273
N	72	3	531	12		1	10	1	19	4	23	247	5	1	1	1	13	994
Totals	121	17	995	26	1	2	11	1	41	6	51	427	8	1	1	1	13	1723

From Table I, it can be seen that the grog-tempered wares form the largest category of pottery from the site (57.7% of the total number of sherds). This is a very different picture from that obtained at Chanctonbury (Rudling 1980), where grog-tempered wares were a relatively minor component of the total *Roman* pottery assemblage, which was dominated by medium sandy wares. This difference might be due to chronological factors, with grog-tempered wares being predominant in the first century but losing this status during the second century. Possibly it increased in importance again later on, and it has been dated at nearby Slonk Hill from the beginning of the third century to the end of the fourth (Fulford 1978, 119). It is interesting, however, to note that at Slonk Hill grog-tempered wares were 'found in almost every feature to yield pottery' (Fulford 1978, 119).

Compared with Chanctonbury, there is a much larger proportion of platters at Lancing, with a consequently reduced predominance of the jar as the major functional type. Beakers are another fairly common functional type, with a few flagons and bowls. There is one example only of a lid, mortarium and amphora.

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The coins (by D. R. Rudling)

1. Illegible fragment of a third century antoninianus. Possibly Gallienus (A.D. 253-68).
 2. Post-medieval (?Eighteenth/nineteenth century). Illegible Ae. 22 mm.
- (Both coins came from the topsoil in trench A).

Metalwork

A. Bronze

1. Fibula, bow part only. 54 mm long, by 15 mm wide (maximum), with single zig-zag decoration down the centre (Fig. 8). First century. Trench A, topsoil.
2. Piece of thin bronze sheet, folded over. 59 mm long by 8 mm wide. No decoration. Trench A, context 5.
3. Fragment of pin, probably from a fibula. 28 mm long, by 1 mm diameter. Undecorated, and tapering to a point at one end. Trench A, context 25.
4. Fragment of bronze loop. 3 mm wide by 1 mm thick, and c. 60 mm long. Undecorated. ?Part of bracelet. Trench A, topsoil.

B. Iron

Most of the iron finds were badly corroded iron nails, some with the head missing. In all, 28 nails, whole or fragmentary, were recovered. Where the head survived, it was invariably flat and round. Most nails were small, e.g.

30-35 mm long, with heads 10-13 mm in diameter. There were, however, two larger nails, 54 mm long, diameter of head 19 mm (trench A, context 111). The only exception to the nails were two iron rings from trench A, context 78. One was 13 mm in diameter, 6 mm wide and 1 mm thick (complete), and the other was 16 mm across, 6 mm wide and 1 mm thick (incomplete).

Building materials

Tile A total of 84 fragments (mostly small) were recovered, weighing 3.55 kg. There were no decorated pieces, and only one showed faint traces of whitish mortar adhering. Where it was possible to establish the fact, all fragments were flat. Thicknesses were 35-45 mm.

Tesserae A total of 89 roughly shaped stone tesserae were found, mostly in the topsoil. These presumably derive from the floor of the temple. Maximum size was 4 cm cube. They were identified by Caroline Cartwright as being calcareous Wealden siltstone.

Painted wall plaster Three small fragments were found, all Pompeian red.

Flintwork

A small amount of flintwork was found during the excavation, mostly in the topsoil. This was catalogued by Caroline Cartwright, who lists 37 waste flakes, 8 retouched flakes, 2 notched flakes, 3 cores (one of which had been used as a hammerstone), 2 side scrapers and a hammerstone (full details in archive). It is impossible to give a precise date or date range for such an assemblage.

Foreign stone

A number of sandstone fragments were found. Apart from the tesserae already referred to, there were six fragments of rotary quernstone, from contexts 111 (this piece contained the socket for the handle), 151 and 156. These fragments were identified by Caroline Cartwright as being of a Wealden sandstone. (Full details in archive).

Animal bone

The site was not rich in bone; a total of only 48 fragments of animal bone and teeth were identified from nine contexts, all in trench A (70, 82, 100, 111, 125, 127, 131, 151, 156). Almost all fragments were severely abraded, with the exception of a few from contexts 111 and 151. There were 36 fragments of *Ovis*, 6 of *Bos* and 6 of *Sus*. Of the 36 *Ovis* fragments, 19 were either teeth or jaw. With such small numbers, this observation has little statistical significance, but attention is drawn to the marked preponderance of mandibles among *Ovis* remains at Chanctonbury (Bedwin 1980).

Marine shell

These far outnumbered the animal bone remains. A total of 897 marine shells (fragmentary or complete) were identified, although 472 were from the topsoil. Among the 425 fragments from sealed contexts, 72.5% were oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), 24.8% were mussel (*Mytilus edulis*), and 2.7% cockle (*Cardium edule*). The most prolific contexts were 82 (temenos gully), with 169 shells, 111, with 66, and 151, with 61. Concentrations of marine shells are frequently met with on Romano-British temple sites and are therefore thought to be linked with the ritual(s) carried out there.

Archived material

The site archive consists of the context record sheets, drawings of those pit and post hole sections not published in this report, pottery record sheets, bone record, and flint, charcoal and foreign stone catalogues. A copy of this archive is stored with the finds, and another copy is held by the Institute of Archaeology, London.

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The finds have been placed in Lancing College Museum.

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