

## EXCAVATIONS ON THE SITE OF THE SOUTHWICK ROMAN VILLA, 1965 AND 1981

by David Rudling

*During 1965 and 1981 rescue excavations were carried out in advance of building work on the site of the Southwick Roman villa. Although little new information was obtained about the villa structure, some of the finds help to shed light on the history of the occupation of the site.*

### INTRODUCTION

Since at least as early as 1815 various finds and 'excavations' have been made on the site of the Roman villa at Southwick (Fig. 1). The earliest observations have been noted by E. F. Salmon (1922) and S. E. Winbolt (1932).

In 1931, taking advantage of a change of land ownership and in advance of possible house construction, Winbolt (1931; 1932) undertook extensive excavations which revealed the foundations of 'a large villa combining both corridor and courtyard types, of exceptional regularity and symmetry, orientated on magnetic north and south'. A 'selection' of the finds from the 1931 excavations were deposited in Hove Museum. Some of these were subsequently

acquired in 1958 by the Sussex Archaeological Society, which still retains them, some at Barbican House Museum, Lewes and others at Marlipins Museum, Shoreham. The rest of the finds originally deposited at Hove Museum have unfortunately since been disposed of, much material having been given away during local government reorganization in 1974. During the same reorganization a small group of Winbolt's finds held by the old Southwick Urban District Council were passed over to the new Adur District Council which, whilst still owning the finds, has arranged for them to remain in the custody of Capt. Divers of the Southwick Society.

In 1932 the villa was saved from redevelopment when the Sussex Archaeological Trust

EARLY SUSSEX VILLAS

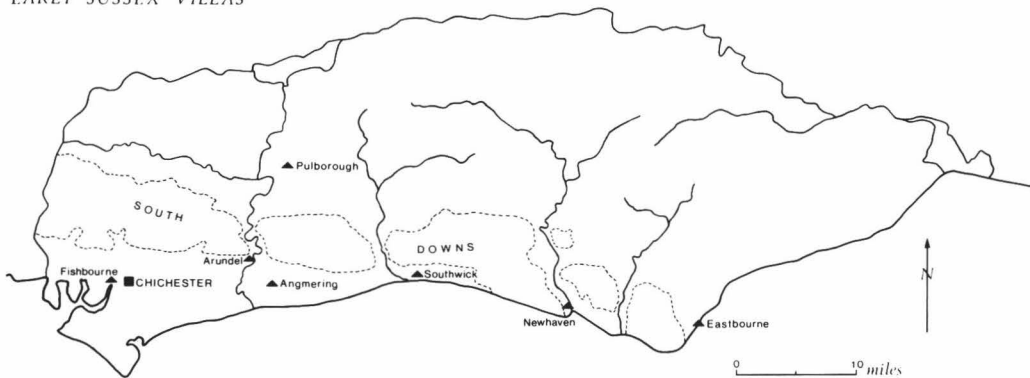


Fig. 1. Southwick villa. Map to show the locations of the early Sussex villas.

acquired most of the site (the main exception being an area across the southern portion of the villa which had already been laid out as a wide road). The site was fenced and opened to the public on various occasions. In the years up to 1934 additional excavations were carried out under the direction of Mr. C. R. Ward. Although short interim notes were produced (Salmon 1932; Ward 1934a; 1934b) no detailed report was ever published. Ward's main discoveries included 'a complete set of baths' underneath the 'chalk yard' marked on the plan in Winbolt's report (Winbolt 1932, 15). These baths apparently replaced part of the western corridor (photograph in *Brighton and Hove Herald*, 19 May 1934, p. 13). South of the main block of the villa were discovered flint foundations which indicated 'the walls of a separate building', and south of the south-west corner of the modern road which crosses the site 'evidence of a roadway made of sea flint cobbles laid on rammed chalk and debris'. Finds from this area included iron slag, pieces of crucible, and smelted bronze, and were taken to confirm a theory that this part of the site had 'workshops and yards'. Most of Ward's finds were deposited in Hove Museum (which has since disposed of them) and a selection were given to Steyning Grammar School, but unfortunately the school archaeological collections do not now contain any finds which are clearly marked as having been found at Southwick. Mr. Ward still has his original site records and photographs, together with a few of the finds (Samian and glass) from a 'rubbish dump' (Ward 1934b, 90) which was located in the area south of the main villa complex. Mr. Ward intends to sort out these notes and finds, and is considering donating them to the Sussex Archaeological Society.

In the late 1930s deep excavations in Southwick Street revealed a section of a clay hearth, a coin of Faustina I, and potsherds (Ward 1938, 118).

As a result of various problems (largely financial) involved with the maintenance of the villa site, the Sussex Archaeological Trust sold

the land during 1953 and 1954. Some of the land had houses built on it, while one area was purchased for the construction of a Methodist church and church hall (Fig. 2).

#### THE 1965 EXCAVATIONS

During the construction of the Methodist church in 1965 excavations and a watching brief were carried out under the direction of Mr. R. A. Canham on behalf of the Ministry of Public Building and Works. A short note (Canham 1966) was published regarding these investigations and two plans were deposited in Barbican House Museum, Lewes (Figs. 2 and 3 are based on these plans). While writing up the 1981 excavation the opportunity was taken to examine in more detail the finds made in 1965. Unfortunately the 1965 site documentation (site notebook and other site records) was unobtainable, but the finds which had been returned to the site owners (the Methodist church) were kindly made available for study and recording (see below).

In 1965 the Roman walls exposed by builders' trenches were accounted for with reference to the previous excavation plans, and no new structures appeared. A plan (Fig. 2) was drawn relating the remains of the villa to the new buildings on its site. The excavations consisted of 12 trenches (Fig. 2) and involved investigations in villa rooms 9, 12 and 26 (as numbered by Winbolt); the small court (13) in the northern range; across the northern corridor (20) of the large courtyard; and in the courtyard (27) itself. As a result of previous ploughing and archaeological investigations little stratified material was found, but in Room 9 the floor 'consisted of a thin layer of small pebbles, later replaced by a floor of broken roofing tiles' (Canham 1966, 281). A photograph showing part of the floor of broken roofing tiles is held by the Methodist church and xerox copies have been deposited at Barbican House Museum and with the Department of the Environment (D.O.E.). In the north-west area of the large courtyard (27) were

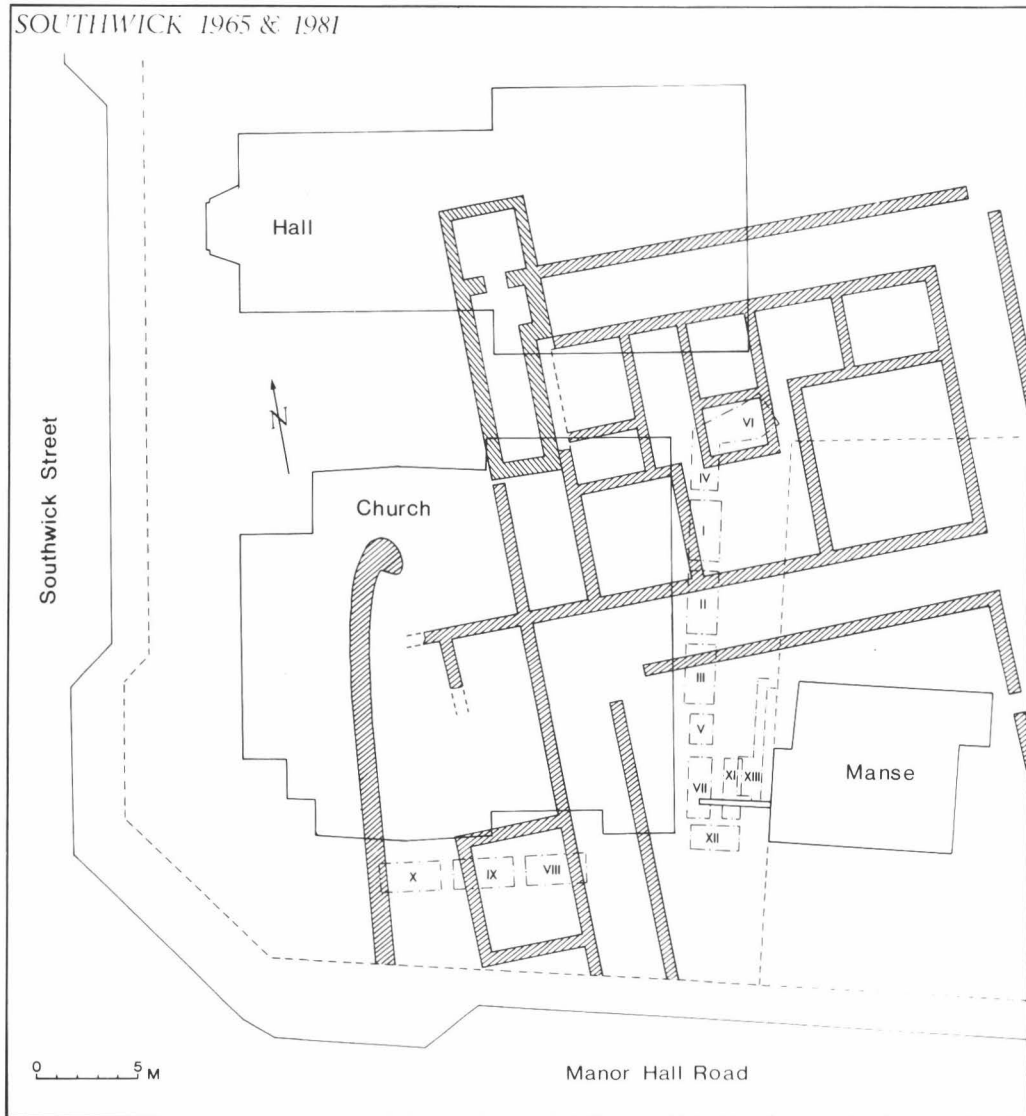


Fig. 2. Southwick villa. 1965 and 1981 trench plan. The plan also shows the positions of the villa foundations in the area involved. (Based on a plan by Roy Canham.)

discovered 'several dozen post-holes and shallow pits, cut into the subsoil from a low level' (Fig. 3). These features were interpreted as indicating an 'earlier occupation of the site'. Canham suggested that the post-holes might be contemporary with a few sherds of pottery thought to be of Iron Age date and 'found resting on the subsoil at various points on the

site'. Unfortunately no dating evidence is known to have been found in the features themselves and thus their dating and interpretation remains unclear.

In 1965 and 1966 a local volunteer, Mr. G. Kemmish, carried out a watching brief during some trenching (for gas, electricity and telephone services) on the villa site. Various walls



Fig. 3. Southwick villa, 1965. Plan of the post-holes and shallow pits cut into the subsoil in Trenches VII, XI and XII.

recorded by Winbolt were observed, and in Room 48 a floor was found which at its east end 'appeared to have had a hearth on it. To the west of this was a plain *opus signinum* floor 1 in. thick'. At the western end of the room Mr. Kemmish noted that the floor was of concrete and suggested that there were 'perhaps two different rooms'. Copies of Mr. Kemmish's notes have been deposited at Barbican House Museum and with the D.O.E.

### THE 1981 EXCAVATIONS

At the request of the D.O.E. and West Sussex County Council, in advance of the building of an extension to the Manse (which occupies the area of the large courtyard (27) of the villa) the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit undertook a small excavation (Fig. 2, Trench XIII), with the specific aim of following up the discoveries (post-holes/shallow pits) made immediately to the west in 1965 (Trenches VII, XI and XII). The trench (XIII) was designed to investigate the area to be destroyed by the foundation of the extension to the Manse, and to overlap with Trench XI of 1965. The area investigated proved to have been much disturbed and all the general 'layers' (Fig. 4, Contexts 1, 2 and 5) contained a mixture of Roman and 'modern' finds. A shallow, roughly rectangular pit (3; the fill is Context 4) running east-west across the trench and overlapping into Trench XI contained only Roman finds. The soil (6) immediately beneath this pit, however, was part of general Layer 5 and yielded a sherd of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of clay

pipe, thus showing the pit to be modern and containing residual Roman material (pottery, tile and animal bones). No other features of archaeological interest were observed.

### DISCUSSION

The Southwick villa is one of a group (Fig. 1) of large, sumptuous villas built in Sussex before the end of the 1st century, a phenomenon which distinguishes the rural settlement pattern in Sussex from most other areas of Roman Britain (Cunliffe 1973, 74; Rudling 1982, 275). The earliest Roman occupation of the site appears on the evidence of the finds to be broadly contemporary with the construction of the Flavian palace at Fishbourne. Cunliffe (1973, 78) has noted that the style of building seen in the plan of the north range at Southwick 'with its rooms created by divisions set within a rectangular shell' is very similar to the north and west ranges of the Fishbourne palace. The discovery at Southwick of a fragment from a Westhampnett-type voussoir (see below) also links a phase of building work at Southwick with the construction of the baths at Angmering and the refitment of the proto-palace baths during the construction of the Flavian palace (Black forthcoming).

The villa may have been built on an unoccupied site since the surviving results and finds of the various excavations at Southwick do not necessarily indicate that there was direct continuity of settlement from the preceding Late Iron Age. Unfortunately the dating of the post-holes and shallow pits discovered by Canham

### SOUTHWICK 1981

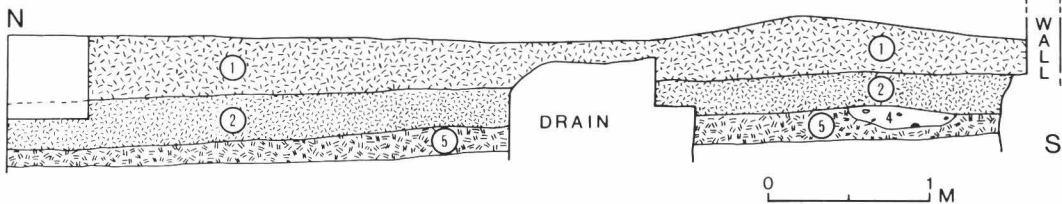


Fig. 4. Southwick villa, 1981. Section of eastern face of Trench XIII.

remains unknown. Only four Iron Age sherds have been recovered, three having been attributed to the Early Iron Age and one to the 3rd-1st centuries B.C. The prehistoric pottery and flintwork finds (see below), however, are evidence of pre-conquest occupation/activity in the vicinity of the villa.

Regarding the later history of the villa little is known. At least one (possibly two) subsequent phases of building work are evidenced by the addition of the baths discovered by Ward in the northern range, and by the 'tile floor' found by Canham in Room 9. The surviving pottery from the villa is predominantly late 1st- and 2nd-century. I have seen no pottery from the villa which need belong to the 4th century, and one should note that only two pieces of New Forest ware (3rd-4th century) are recorded (see below) and none of the red colour-coated wares which are common in the late 3rd and 4th centuries. In addition, although the site has yielded at least three 4th-century coins these need not necessarily indicate occupation, but perhaps some other activity, possibly robbing as at Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, 97). That only two coins are recorded of the period 259-94 (Winbolt 1932, 23) is perhaps worth noting since coins of this period on British sites continuously occupied in the Roman period are especially prolific (Reece 1972, 273). The small numbers of recorded coins from Southwick must be borne in mind, however, and Winbolt noted that many other coins had been found on the site. Thus whilst it has been suggested (based on the coin data) that occupation may have continued at Southwick until the mid 4th century (Winbolt 1932, 31) it is possible that the villa was abandoned during the 3rd century. Cunliffe (1973, 106) notes that the villas at Fishbourne and Preston were both destroyed by fire late in the 3rd century (and not rebuilt), 'while at West Blatchington and possibly Angmering there is no evidence for occupation after the early years of the fourth century'. Possibly, as Cunliffe suggests, the coastal plain locations of these villas might indicate that the abandonments

were caused by pirate raids, 'but there may have been economic factors at work as well'.

Finds at Southwick from the post-Roman period include a few small pieces of medieval and post-medieval pottery and clay pipes (some of which may in fact have belonged to the early 'investigators' of the villa!).

The recent history of the villa, with regard to the disappearance of most of the finds it yielded and the ultimate destruction of most of the site (the exception is a small part of the northern range which can be seen as a 'crop mark' in the lawn behind the church hall) is disappointing, and as Winbolt (1932, 32) pointed out, 'that so good a ground plan of a Roman villa should not be preserved as a national historical monument, is a matter for great regret'.

#### THE FINDS

The following is principally a guide to the finds recovered during the 1965 and 1981 excavations. These have now been returned to the landowners (the Methodist church). The writer has also examined the small groups of finds belonging to the Sussex Archaeological Society (S.A.S.) at Barbican House Museum, Lewes and Marlipins Museum, Shoreham, and those of the Adur District Council (A.D.C.) at present on loan to Capt. Divers of the Southwick Society. The items in these small collections appear to be derived mainly from Winbolt's excavations and include a number of the finds described and illustrated in his report. Several previously unpublished items, such as the roller-stamped tile fragments, are described below.

#### *The Flintwork* (by C. Cartwright)

There is a total of 43 flints from SOU/65 and SOU/81 (including one fire-cracked flint). In this small assorted assemblage much of the material is waste deriving from the knapping processes, i.e. 14 fragments of rough workshop waste and 11 waste flakes. There are four rather roughly retouched scrapers and seven flakes with small areas of retouch; some of these are also quite rough. There is one notched flake, and one with notching and retouch. The three cores (two with more than three platforms, one with one partially flaked platform) are rather irregular, producing

small flakes. There is only one blade in the flintwork, and one fragment of fire-cracked flint. As a whole, the flintwork from disturbed levels within the Roman villa area (which these contexts represent) reflects the nature of many coastal-plain flint assemblages, rather rough and fairly unspecialized. A more detailed analysis of the flintwork is on microfiche (p. 1).

The reader is also referred to Winbolt's report which records the discovery of 'eight flint implements—scrapers and points'. The present location of these flints is unknown.

## The Pottery

### Introduction

The total number of sherds (458) of all periods from the excavations in 1965 (380 sherds) and 1981 (78 sherds) is small. A summary table showing the numbers of sherds by fabric groups for each trench (I-XIII) is on microfiche (p. 3). Most of the sherds are fairly small and probably generally represent pieces missed, or not thought worth retaining, during the earlier excavations of the site. Most (357) were found in the large courtyard (Trenches V, VII, XI, XII and XIII), the only other relatively large quantity (45 sherds) coming from Trench X. Occasional references are made below to pottery finds from the earlier excavations.

### Fabric types

#### Iron Age

*A. Flint-gritted wares* (four sherds): these were examined by Dr. Owen Bedwin and Ms. Sue Hamilton. A detailed report is on microfiche (p. 2). Three sherds are possibly of Early Iron Age date. Another, an undecorated body sherd, heavily flint-gritted but the calcined flint all of a consistently small size, could be a saucepan pottery fabric of the 3rd-1st century B.C.

#### Roman

*B. Handmade grog-tempered wares* (73 sherds): grey or brown to black in colour. 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. These wares are often referred to as 'East Sussex ware'. The coarse-ware pots described by Winbolt (1932, 28) as having 'smooth soapy surfaces' are almost certainly of this fabric. Vessel forms include bowls and jars.

*C. Samian ware* (27 sherds): these were kindly examined by Ms. Catherine Johns. Nine derive from a single South Gaulish bowl (Dragendorff form 36) of Flavian date. The rest are of Central Gaulish origin, probably Antonine in date, and including Dragendorff forms 18/31; 18/31R; 31; 27; 37 and 38. This range of forms/types is similar to that listed by Winbolt. In addition, one sherd from a Dragendorff form 37 in the A.D.C. collection is decorated on the exterior with rouletted decoration. The A.D.C. collection also includes the two graffiti sherds noted by Winbolt, and rubbings of the graffiti have been deposited with the collection of such rubbings at the Institute of Archaeology, London.

*D. Micaceous wares* (21 sherds): grey or buff, fine-medium textured wares. Forms include carinated bowls. ?1st-century.

*E. Light self-coloured wares* (23 sherds): mainly white, buff, orange or pink, and of varying textures from fine to medium sandy. Various unidentified production centres. Forms include flagons and a ?'honey-pot' jar. 1st/2nd-century.

*F. Colour-coated wares* (six sherds): two of the sherds are from Nene Valley ware (late 2nd-/early 3rd-century) beakers with barbotine decoration, and one is of New

Forest ware (3rd/4th-century). It is interesting to note that Winbolt records 'one pot and a few fragments of Castor ware' and '*only one* fragment of New Forest ware' (my emphasis). The S.A.S. and A.D.C. collections do not include any examples of the red colour-coated wares which are common during the late 3rd and 4th centuries.

*G. The 'grey' wares* (269 sherds): a group of fabrics from various production sources, ranging in colour from light grey to black, and in texture from fine to medium sandy. Some sherds have burnished surfaces, and one is of Black Burnished ware (BBI). Forms include dishes, bowls, jars, lids and beakers.

*H. Miscellaneous* (three sherds): there are two mortaria sherds (described below) and an amphora (?Dressel 20) body sherd.

### Post-Roman

*I. Medieval lead-glazed wares* (three sherds): the external, mottled glazes are either green or yellow and green in colour.

*J. Post-medieval wares* (18 sherds): various types.

*K. Post-medieval clay pipes* (11 stem fragments).

### The catalogue

A selection of the Roman sherds are described below. References are to the Fishbourne report (Cunliffe 1971).

1.-2. Rims. Grog-tempered ware. Trench XIII and unstratified.

3. Thin-walled body sherd from a beaker. Fine grey micaceous ware. Incised and impressed decoration. Trench VII.

4. Carinated bowl with rouletted decoration. Fine grey micaceous ware. Cf. Fishbourne Type 70. 1st-century. Trench XI.

5. (not illustrated) Base and body sherds from a carinated bowl with close rilling. Buff micaceous fabric, with grey external surface. 1st/2nd-century. Trench VII.

6. Flagon with multiple-ringed neck. Sandy orange fabric with cream surfaces. Cf. Fishbourne Type 109. 1st/early 2nd-century. Unstratified.

7. Rim with internal ledge for lid. From a ?'honey-pot' storage jar. Fine sandy white ware. Late 1st-/mid 2nd-century. Trench XI.

8. (not illustrated) Rim and decorated body sherd from a poppy-head beaker with high lip. Fine grey ware with external whitish slip. Cf. Fishbourne Type 267. c.A.D.80-140. Trench V.

9. Body sherd with incised circle containing applied pellets. Sandy grey ware. Trench XIII.

10. Shallow dish with lightly burnished surfaces. Black sandy ware. Cf. Fishbourne Type 200. 2nd-century onwards. Trench XIII.

11. Bowl with lightly burnished decoration. Black sandy fabric with orange-buff core. Cf. Fishbourne Type 213. ?Early/mid 2nd-century. Trench XI.

12. Lid with upturned lip. Sandy grey ware. Trench XI.

13. (not illustrated) Lid with undifferentiated lip. Sandy grey ware. Cf. Fishbourne Type 187. Trench XIII. A complete example of this type of lid was previously found at Southwick and is now on display at Barbican House.

14. Two-handled jug. Fine pale buff/pink ware with grog and some quartz inclusions. 1st-century. S.A.S. collection.

15. Mortarium with large hooked flange and internal bead-rim. Fine sandy cream ware with numerous iron mineral and some large grog inclusions. Flint trituration grits. The rim is stamped FECIT ('made it'). This is one of an original pair of stamps. A rubbing of the stamp was submitted to Mrs. K. Hartley who reports that this is 'a counterstamp used by Matugenus, either from the large die of his found at Brockley Hill or from a closely similar one (Suggett 1955, 60-4); the namestamp would have appeared on the other

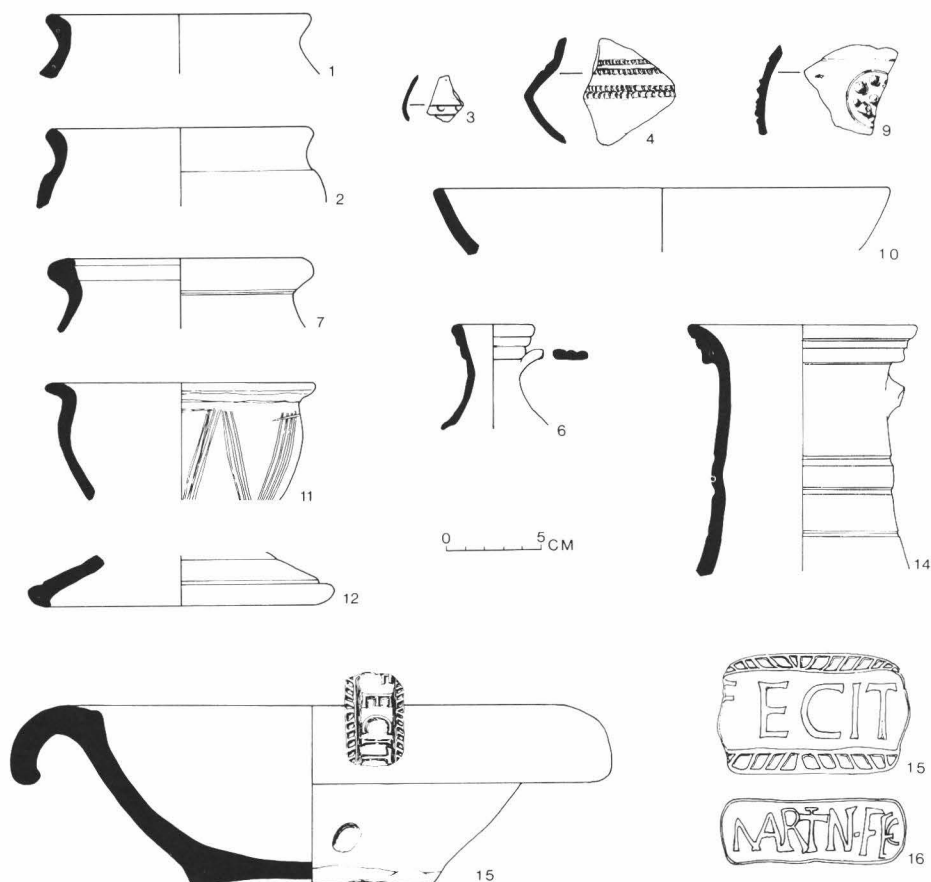


Fig. 5. Southwick villa. Pottery ( $\times \frac{1}{4}$  except stamps which are  $\times \frac{1}{2}$ ).

side of the vessel. Matugenus worked at Brockley Hill (Suggett 1954, 259-76). Nearly 130 of his mortaria are known, excluding those from Brockley Hill, from sites throughout England and Wales. His work can be dated A.D. 85-125 (for further details see Frere forthcoming, mortarium stamps nos. 83-7). Trench X.

16. Mortarium. Similar in type to no. 15. Cream/off-white sand-tempered ware with flint trituration grits. This sherd is stamped MARTIN.FEC (MA and TI ligatured). Mrs. Hartley comments: 'the stamp is from a die of a potter called Martinus; FE or FEC with a shortened form of the name is not uncommon in mortarium stamps. Other stamps from the same die are known from Alfriston Close, Sussex; Corbridge (2); Farningham, Kent; Great Wakering, Essex; Harting, near Petersfield; London (3); Staines (2); Verulamium; and Wiggonholt, Pulborough (2). The fabric, rim-form and the type of spout used by Martinus point to production near Watling Street somewhere in the region south-east of Verulamium, where extensive potteries existed at Brockley Hill, Radlett, immediately outside Verulamium, and no doubt elsewhere in the region. There is no site-dating evidence but the rim-profiles used indicate activity within the period A.D. 100-140. Martinus's market appears to have been concentrated in south and south-

eastern England, which was by no means true for these potteries as a whole (see Matugenus), and the high proportion of his stamps in Sussex is worthy of note. A small group of mortaria, made in the same potteries and stamped with a die giving MART retrograde, could be early work of the same potter but there is insufficient evidence for certainty (Frere forthcoming, fig. 118, no. 82). Neither die is to be confused with the much better known Martinus who made mortaria at Colchester in the second half of the 2nd century.' Only the stamp is illustrated. A.D.C. collection.

17. (not illustrated) Mortarium body sherd. The sherd was submitted to Mrs. Hartley who reports: 'a burnt and heavily worn body sherd in yellow-cream fabric. This could be from an import from Gaul or from a 2nd-century product of the kilns at Colchester.' Trench XI.

### The Glass (by J. D. Shepherd)

Twenty-two fragments of glass and 20 glass tesserae were submitted for identification. The glass tesserae are described separately below, and of the other glass fragments only five are Roman, the rest being post-medieval (see microfiche, p. 4). The Roman glass is described below.



18. The handle of a square-sectioned bottle (Isings 1957, 63f, form 50). Applied to a mould-blown vessel. Thick clear bluish-green glass. Late 1st- or 2nd-century. Trench IX.

19. (not illustrated) Small fragment of free-blown bluish-green glass from a thin-walled vessel of indeterminate form. Fragment distorted by fire. Trench X.

20. (not illustrated) Fragment of thick bluish-green glass from a vessel of indeterminate form (probably a bottle: example Isings 1957, 67f, form 51). Trench XIII, Context 5.

21. (not illustrated) Fragment of bluish-green window glass of the cast matt/glossy variety. Thickness c. 5 mm. Unstratified.

22. Small fragment of wall-veneer (?). Cast, opaque blue glass with an opaque white overlay, the white overlapping one edge of the blue and ground and polished on this side giving a slight flattened ridge. This grinding down of the white glass is by a technique normally referred to as 'cameo-carved' and associated with some of the rarest and most famous vessels in the history of glass. This small fragment, which is rather unusual in any context, originally

came from a plaque but appears to have been cut down for use as a tessera. In association with the other glass tesserae this does give some indication of the elaborate decoration of the building. S.A.S. collection.

### The Coins

The only coin found during the recent excavations was a Chinese cash coin of the Ch'ing dynasty Emperor Kao Tsung (1736-95). Presumably a fairly recent loss. Trench XIII, Context 5. Of the coins found during the earlier excavations six are at Barbican House:

a. The Hadrian (117-38) sestertius illustrated by Winbolt (1932, fig. 4).

b. Faustina II (d. 175). An illegible As. Listed by Winbolt.

c. ?2nd-century. Illegible As. Reverse: figure standing left between SC.

d. Constantine I (307-37). Ae 18 mm. Reverse: BEATA TRANQLITAS, altar inscribed VOT/IS/XX. Mint mark: PTR (Trier). Ref. *RIC* 305. ?Listed by Winbolt ('Constantine I').

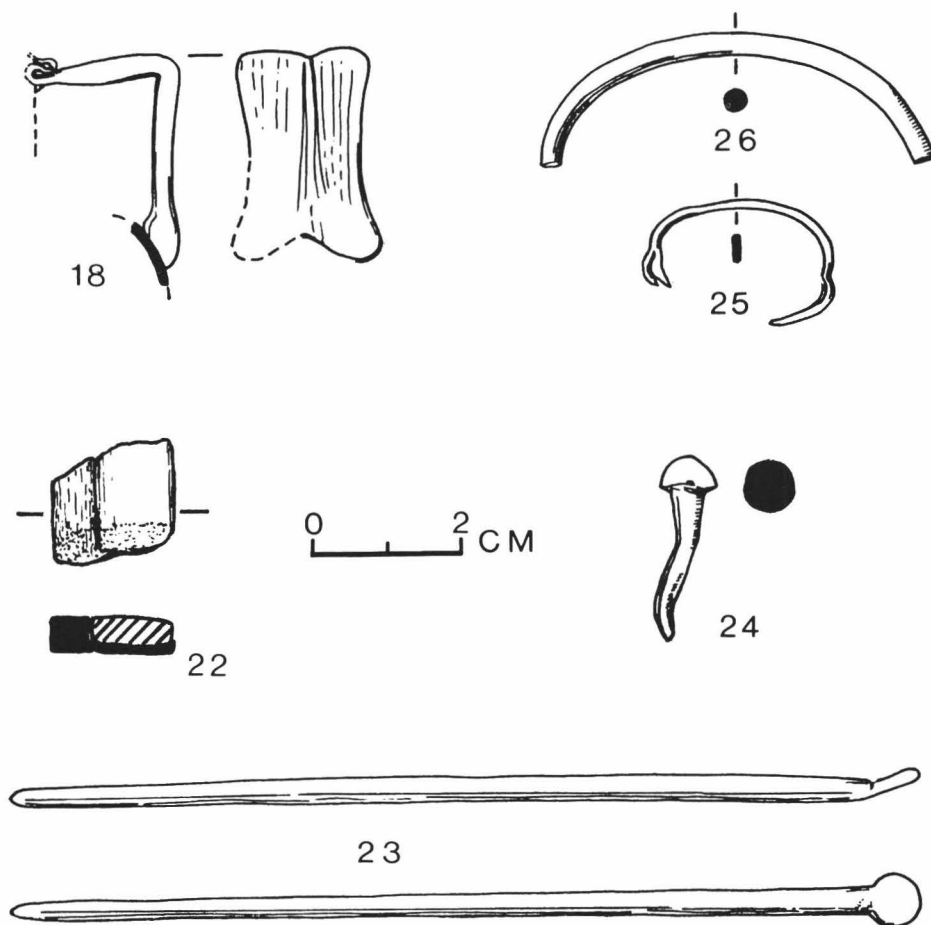


Fig. 6. Southwick villa. Small finds (1:1 except no. 18 which is  $\times \frac{1}{2}$ ).

e. Constantine I. Ae 18 mm. Reverse: SARMATIA DEVICTA, victory right, captive at feet. Mint mark: [] TR (Trier). Ref. *RIC* 429. Listed by Winbolt.

f. Constans (337–50). Ae 16 mm. Reverse: VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q NN, two victories standing facing each other. Mint mark  $\frac{\epsilon}{\gamma}$  (Trier). Issue c. 347–8. Ref. as *RIC* 197.

(References are to the relevant volumes of *Roman Imperial Coinage*, ed. Mattingly, Sydenham, Sutherland & Carson.)

Winbolt also lists as finds from the villa coins of Commodus (177–92); 'a doubtful coin of the early third century'; Severus Alexander (222–35); 'Tetricus (or Quintillus), c.270'; and Diocletian (284–305). The present location of these other coins is now unknown, as is the case with the coins of Titus (79–81), Domitian (81–96) and Faustina I (d. 141) mentioned by Ward (1934b, 90; 1938, 118).

### Metalwork

#### Copper-alloy

23. Toilet spoon with small round flat scoop. Probably used for extracting ointment from containers. Trench XI.

24. Globular-headed nail or stud. Trench VII.

25. Plain, expanding finger-ring. Trench XII.

26. Fragment of bracelet made from a single strand of wire. Trench XIII, Context I.

In addition, Trenches VII and XIII (Context 4) each yielded a small bronze strip.

#### Lead

27. (not illustrated) Three fragments of thin sheet lead were found in Trench VIII.

#### Iron (none illustrated)

The various trenches yielded a total of 28 badly preserved nail fragments. There were also four small miscellaneous unidentified iron fragments.

### Building Materials

#### Tile

Regrettably only a few tiny fragments of Roman tile were kept from the 1965 excavations (most of these were in bags of pottery), and thus details about the 'broken roofing tiles' which formed the second floor in Room 9 are unavailable. The 1981 excavations produced 44 fragments of Roman tile (all of which have been retained), and where identifiable these are all roofing tiles (*tegulae* and *imbrix*) with the exception of one piece which may be from a 'flat' tile. Most of the tile is of a fairly hard, orange sandy fabric (other inclusions which are sometimes present include grog, flint, iron minerals and organic matter). A second, much less common, fabric is orange-buff in colour, with a 'soapy' feel and containing grog and ironstone inclusions.

The S.A.S. and A.D.C. collections include some fragments of tile, including pieces of roofing tile, 'flat' tiles and box-flue tiles. At Barbican House Museum there is one complete *tegula mammata*-type tile, which is a flat tile (or brick) with applied bosses (*mammatae*) on two alternate corners. These bosses were designed to help bind the tile to mortar. The Southwick example measures 39.5 x 26.5 x 4.0 cm. Similarly bossed flat tiles have also been found at Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, 43–4), Angmering (Scott 1938, fig. 10, no. 3) and Tarrant Street, Arundel (during excavations by the author in 1983).

Most of the keying on the few surviving Southwick box-flue tiles was produced by combing (wavy or lattice patterns), and one somewhat unusual example is described below.

28. Tile fragment with combed decoration. A hard orange fabric. Thickness 14 mm. S.A.S. collection.

The S.A.S. collection also contains two tile fragments (described below) which have roller-stamped 'diamond and lattice' decoration. Rubbings of the stamps were submitted to Mr. Ernest Black (who is making a study of such stamped tiles) and I am grateful to him for his comments. 29. Box-flue tile fragment. The identification of the die is uncertain but seems *similar* to Johnston & Williams (1979) die 48 (found at Fishbourne and Chichester), though it is larger than this and closer in size to Lowther die 46 (Lowther 1948). The closest match for the Southwick die is the pattern on a tile fragment from the recently excavated aisled building at Fishbourne Harbour (Ernest Black pers. comm.).

30. Fragment from a Westhampnett-type *vousoir* (Hills 1868, pl. 16). The keying has been produced with the aid of two different dies; one surface (a) is stamped with Lowther die 21, while the other (b) is stamped with a die of uncertain type, which is similar in pattern to Lowther dies 22 and 38, but is not either of these. Another example of the use of two different dies to decorate a tile is the Angmering box tile with central divider in Barbican House which is stamped with die 21 on the face and die 23 on the side, thus proving the two dies to be contemporary.

The 'rediscovery' of the roller-stamped tiles described above is important since they belong to a group of dies (Lowther's 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 37, 38 and 40; Johnston & Williams die 48; and Fishbourne B) which Black (forthcoming) has called the 'London-Sussex Group'. Dating for this group of dies seems to be the period 75–100. Time-wise this group of dies links a phase of building at Southwick with similar building phases at other Sussex sites. Thus Black's studies show that in Sussex die 21 is also represented at Angmering and Wiggonholt (and in re-used contexts at Ranscombe Hill and Westhampnett). Other 'London-Sussex Group' dies, however, were also present on the sites at Alfoldean, Fishbourne (the Flavian palace baths), High Down (Angmering), Chichester (baths) and Eastbourne. In addition three small fragments of roller-stamped tile from Newhaven are probably of Lowther Group 5, and thus possibly of Black's 'London-Sussex Group'.

#### Tesserae

A total of 11 tesserae (three glass, seven stone and one tile) were found during the excavations in 1965 and 1981. The cut-down tile tessera (from Trench X) was the only example of the '1-inch type' which is noted as being 'numerous' by Winbolt (1932, 29). The stone tesserae are much smaller and range in size from 10 x 10 x 9 mm. to 20 x 14 x 10 mm. Four are made of chalk (one has a flint surface) and the other three are of micaceous sandstone (one has a quartz capping). 'Many hundreds of small tesserae' made of similar materials (chalk and micaceous sandstone) were found by Winbolt and are evidence of mosaics which must once have existed in the villa. The three glass tesserae have gold leaf on the upper surface and are similar to the eight such tesserae described by Winbolt (1932, 25). One of the recent finds is from Trench II and the others from the junction of Trenches IV and VI. These three tesserae, together with a small group of other types of small glass tesserae from the S.A.S. collection, were submitted to Mr. John Shepherd who reports: 'Twenty glass tesserae were submitted for identification. They include the following types:

a. Thick olive-green glass with many air bubbles, with a layer of gold leaf sealed by a thin, now heavily crizzled, layer of glass. Sizes (measurements in mm.): 9 x 10 x 6 (two examples); 5 x 4 x 4; 5 x 5 x 4; 4 x 3 x 4; 3 x 3 x 3; 10 x 10 x 14 x 6 (triangular). The two largest square examples came from Trench II and the junction of Trenches IV and VI, the

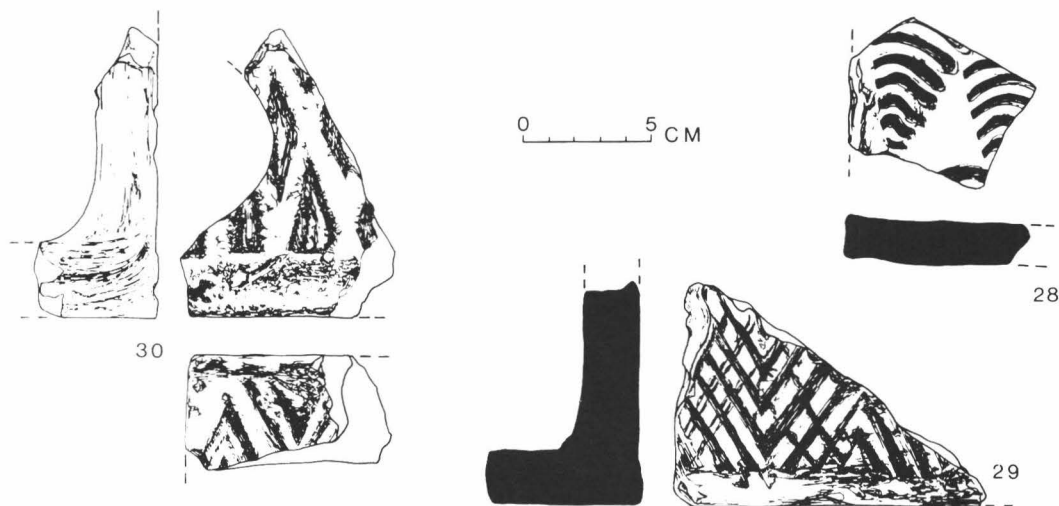


Fig. 7. Southwick villa. Roman tile ( $\times \frac{1}{2}$ ).

triangular specimen from the junction of Trenches IV and VI, and the rest from the S.A.S. collection. These 'gold-on-glass' tesserae are, as Winbolt exclaimed (1932, 24), 'exceptional', and such are not common in this country during the Roman or, for that matter, any other period. Examples do occur at Capel St. Mary, Suffolk, where they are associated with kiln debris, cakes of glass, monochrome glass tesserae and tesserae of Samian ware (Wilson 1964, 168), but no date was offered for them.

b. Opaque deep blue glass. Sizes: 7 x 7 x 4 (three examples); 5 x 5 x 4 (four); 4 x 6 x 4 (two) and 4 x 4 x 4 (one). All are from the S.A.S. collection.

c. Opaque turquoise glass. Size: 5 x 5 x 4. S.A.S. collection.

d. Dull olive-green glass. Size: 4 x 5 x 1. S.A.S. collection.

e. Pale green glass. Size: 4 x 4 x 4. S.A.S. collection. In addition, the small fragment of blue and opaque white glass described above appears to have been cut down for use as a tessera'.

#### Miscellaneous materials

These include a piece of red painted wall plaster and a few small pieces of mortar and *opus signinum*.

#### Stone Foreign to the Site (identifications by C. Cartwright)

Stone finds from the 1965 and 1981 excavations include two fragments of Wealden sandstone, one quartzite beach pebble and several small pieces of slate and coal. The A.D.C. collection contains a piece of 'Sussex marble'.

#### Animal Bone (identifications by Dr. O. Bedwin)

A total of 36 bones and bone fragments were examined (13 being from the 1981 excavations). The information about them is unfortunately very limited due to the lack of data about the contexts of the bones from the 1965 excavations and the disturbed nature of the 1981 contexts. There

are 19 cattle bones (two pelvic fragments show chop marks); 14 sheep or goat bones; one horse bone; one pig bone; and one unidentified fragment. All these species are recorded by Winbolt (1932, 24) who also notes bones from a cock. Full details of the 1965 and 1981 bones are lodged with the finds.

#### Marine Shell (identifications by C. Cartwright)

The 1965 and 1981 excavations yielded 19 marine shells, the species including oysters (13), cockle (3), periwinkle (2), whelk (1). A similar range is noted by Winbolt, and in Barbican House Museum there are also examples of carpet-shells amongst the Southwick finds.

#### Contents of Microfiche

Further details of the flintwork (by C. Cartwright) (p. 1)

Detailed report on the prehistoric pottery (by Dr. O. Bedwin) (p. 2)

Summary table by trench and fabric of all pottery (by D. Rudling) (p. 3)

Report on the post-medieval glass (by J. Shepherd) (p. 4)

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