

Short articles



Further beyond the villa: Southwick revisited, 1933 and 2008

Giles Standing
33 Church Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 5DQ.
gilesstanding@cantab.net

This short article adds further information, based on recent research, to the 2008 Southwick Roman villa excavation report published in the previous volume of *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (Standing 2010).

The research and excavation work from 2008 (site code SWK08), undertaken in the playing field of Eastbrook Primary School (NGR TQ 2445 0555) adjacent to the Southwick villa site, has focused on land south of the main villa, east of Southwick Street. This part of the villa environs has been interpreted from structural discoveries in 1933 and around 1938, and subsequently in 2008, as having been occupied by the villa outbuildings (possible workshops, yards and tracks), dating from the 1st century AD (Ward 1934, 90; Ward 1938, 118; Standing 2010).

The precise location of the excavations by C. R. Ward in 1933, interrupted in part by new house-building, was not accurately recorded. Recent research, through scrutiny of historic street directories, has refined this. New houses were being built at that time on the east side of Southwick Street (rather than south of Manor Hall Road, cf. Standing 2010, fig. 1, Area A), and the landowner referred to in 1933, Mr (Charles) Alce (Ward 1934, 90), has been identified as owner and resident of 'Cuckmere', 44 Southwick Street (see Kelly 1934, 1069). It is now known that it was in the garden of this property that 'an angle of a flint and mortar wall' (Ward 1934, 90) was found (Fig. 1, Area A). Finds associated with this structure, as reported by Ward, included pottery mainly of the late 1st to early 2nd century AD, two silver-plated coins 'in good condition' — *denarii* of Titus (AD 80/81) and Domitian (AD 82) (Fig. 2) — and other finds including wattle-and-daub fragments and painted wall plaster (Ward 1934, 90; Collingwood and Taylor 1934, 217). This information updates the excavation location plan previously published (Standing 2010, fig. 1).

This identification is of particular significance to the 2008 excavation, as the garden of 44 Southwick Street backs directly onto the north-west corner of the school playing field and the area of the test-pit (Fig. 1). Indeed, the unmortared Roman wall discovered in that corner of the field in 2008 — similarly associated with pottery from the 1st century AD, and comparable finds including daub fragments — continued into the baulk, towards the garden of 44 Southwick Street (Standing 2010, figs 2–3).

It may be suggested, then, that these structures represent a group of associated outbuildings, perhaps of varying degrees of status and build quality, contemporary with (or indeed earlier than) the main villa phase, and that the 2008 findings corroborate and extend the work undertaken in 1933. It is now known that these interventions were undertaken as far south, but not as far south-east, of the villa as the 2008 excavation, though the precise proximity of the 1933 and 2008 excavations to one another cannot be realised from the available evidence.

2011 WORK

With the support of the Association for Roman Archaeology (ARA) with a grant from the Graham Webster Research Fund, further small-scale excavation was undertaken by the author in April 2011 with a subsequent test-pit 1.5m by 1.25m, 2.65m east of the 2008 test-pit. At a similar level, another small section of unmortared rubble Roman wall — of chalk, flint and tile pieces — was discovered, with later pottery of 2nd- to 3rd-century date, and fragments of loose mortar, some with small traces of white plaster. These findings further correlate with those made in 1933 and 2008. A full report on the 2011 excavation (SWK11) has been deposited with the West Sussex HER, Barbican House Library (Sussex Archaeological Society) and the Manor Cottage Heritage Centre (Southwick Society). All the finds from the 2008 and 2011 excavations have been deposited with the Southwick Society for permanent storage.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Jane Russell for the updated location plan of the villa excavations published here, and to the Southwick Society and John Ward (son of C. R. Ward) for permission to publish the photograph (c. 1933/34) of the Flavian coins from 44 Southwick Street (previously unpublished); the coins have not been located.

REFERENCES

- Collingwood, R. G. and Taylor, M. V.** 1934. Roman Britain in 1933, *Journal of Roman Studies* **24**, 196–221.
Kelly, F. 1934. *Kelly's Directory of Brighton, Hove, Portslade and Neighbourhood*. London: Kelly's Directories.
Standing, G. 2010. Beyond the villa: excavation at Southwick, West Sussex, 2008, *SAC* **148**, 247–52.
Ward, C. R. 1934. Roman villa at Southwick: new discoveries, 1933–1934, *SNQ* **5**, 90–91.
Ward, C. R. 1938. Roman finds: Southwick and Lancing, *SNQ* **7**, 118–19.

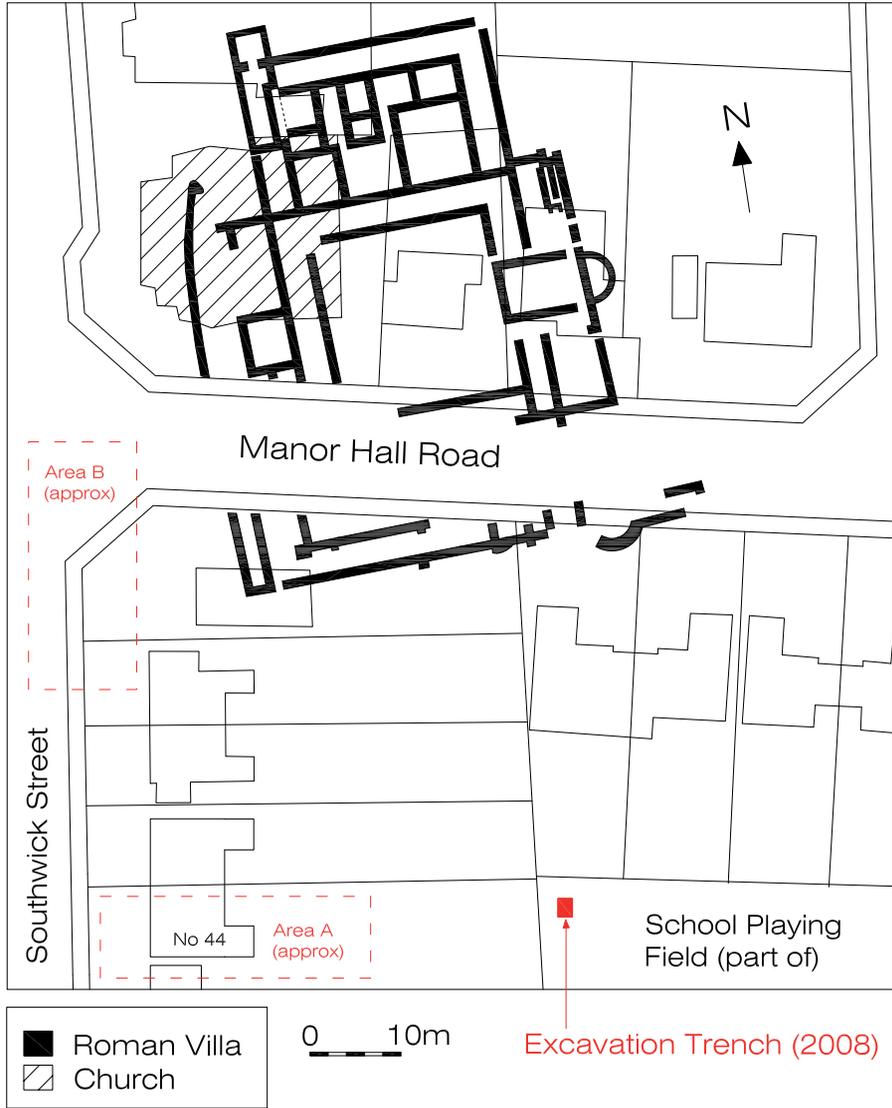


Fig. 1. Updated plan of trench locations.



Fig. 2. Original photograph of Flavian *denarii* (not to scale).