

Roman activity at the Chichester Festival Theatre site Oaklands Park, Chichester

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An archaeological excavation within the grounds of the Chichester Festival Theatre, Oaklands Park, Chichester, West Sussex has revealed evidence of predominately late 2nd- to late 3rd-century activity some 300m north of the northern gate of the Roman walled city. Several Roman features, including a late 3rd-century cremation burial, were identified. An earlier excavation in the vicinity of the site located evidence of a possible timber-silled building also of Roman date.

INTRODUCTION

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, UCL, was commissioned by Andrzej Blonski Architects to undertake a programme of archaeological work at Chichester Festival Theatre, Oaklands Park, West Sussex (NGR SU 86089 05534). The excavation was undertaken in February 2008 and encompassed an area of approximately 302m². A modern building had previously occupied the site, and had left areas of deep concrete piling across the excavation area (Figs 1 and 2).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located 320m to the north of the walls and northern gate of the Roman city of Chichester (*Noviomagus Reginorum*), in the vicinity of the Chichester to Silchester Roman road. The alignment of this road as it approaches the north gate has been the subject of much discussion over the years, and the course is not yet firmly established (Fig. 1). Margary (1965, 278) proposed a route which follows the line of St Paul's Road (old Broyle Road) before diverting northwards towards Binderton. Alternatively, Down and Rule (1971, 168) have suggested that the route may have largely followed the current Broyle Road (old Lavant Road).

Past fieldwork in the vicinity of the site has provided evidence of both Roman settlement and funerary activity in this area. In 1998, two Roman cremation vessels were discovered during an

archaeological evaluation at Cawley's Almshouses on Broyle Road (Southern Archaeology 1998, 1). The vessels were dated to AD 150–250, and both contained cremated adult bone (Lyne 2004, 54). It was suggested that the burials formed part of a cemetery lining the road north of Chichester, possibly part of the Northgate cemetery discovered in 1973 (Southern Archaeology 1998, 2).

Roman cemeteries are known outside the east, west and north city gates, with another possible cemetery to the south of the city (Down 1988, 59). The Northgate cemetery was discovered during work for the ring road, with 6 inhumations and 11 cremations reported, 1 associated with a coin dated AD 200. These burials are believed to be part of a larger cemetery possibly extending from the Roman gate northwards, below the current Northgate car park and the nearby tennis courts (Down 1978, 7). This cemetery is recorded as having spread across part of the earlier town (Down 1978, 9).

No further evidence of burial activity was identified during an archaeological excavation within Cawley's Almshouses in 2001 (Hunter and Pine 2004). However, the two excavated areas did produce evidence of settlement activity. Area 1 contained early Roman post-holes and evidence of a two-phase timber-silled building consisting of three beam slots. Dating evidence for this structure is very poor, and it appears to have been completely robbed of building material, perhaps during the construction or repair of the city walls (Hunter and Pine 2004, 16). It is suggested that the first phase of the building could have ended around the mid 2nd century, and the second

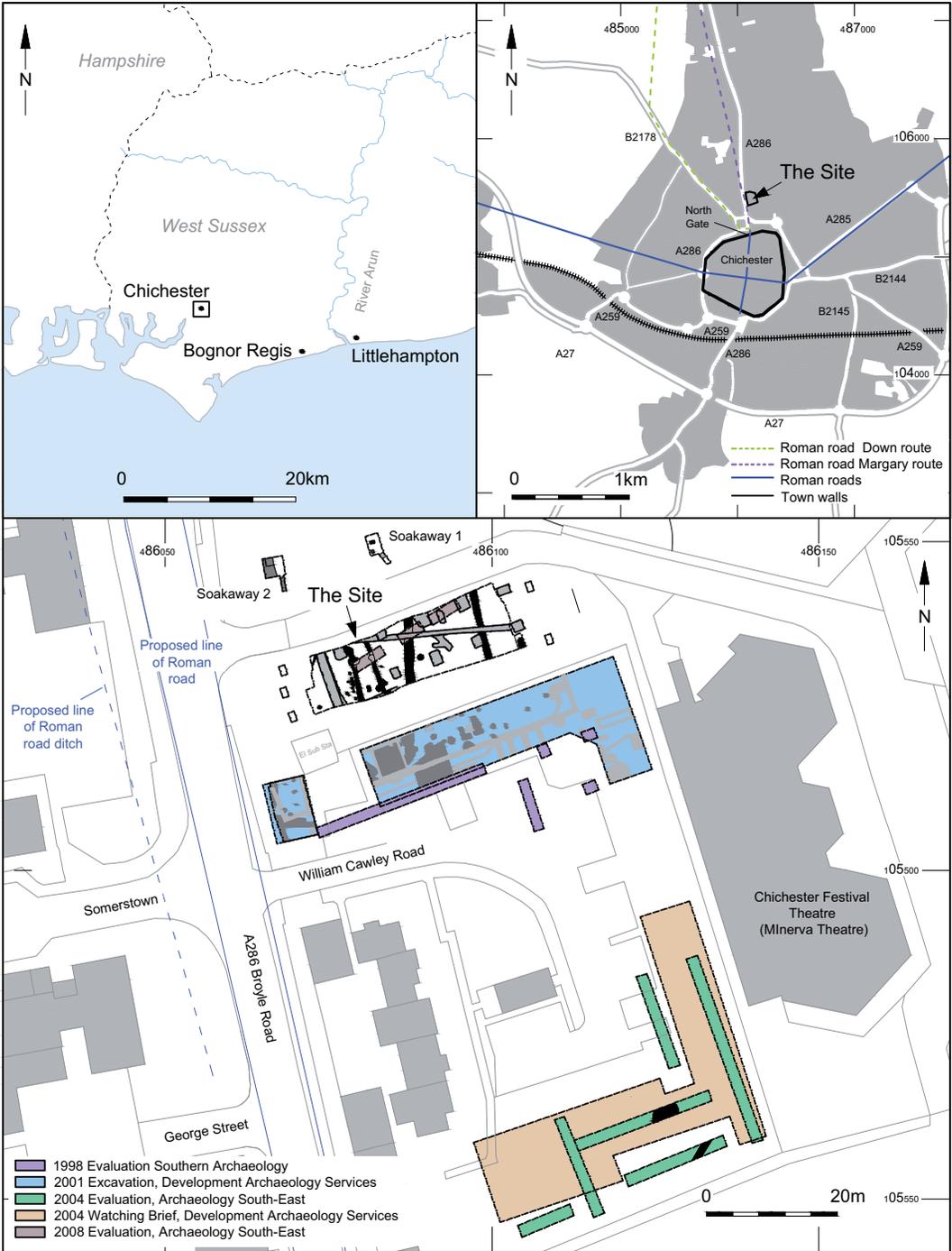


Fig. 1. Site location.



Fig. 2. Plan of excavated features.

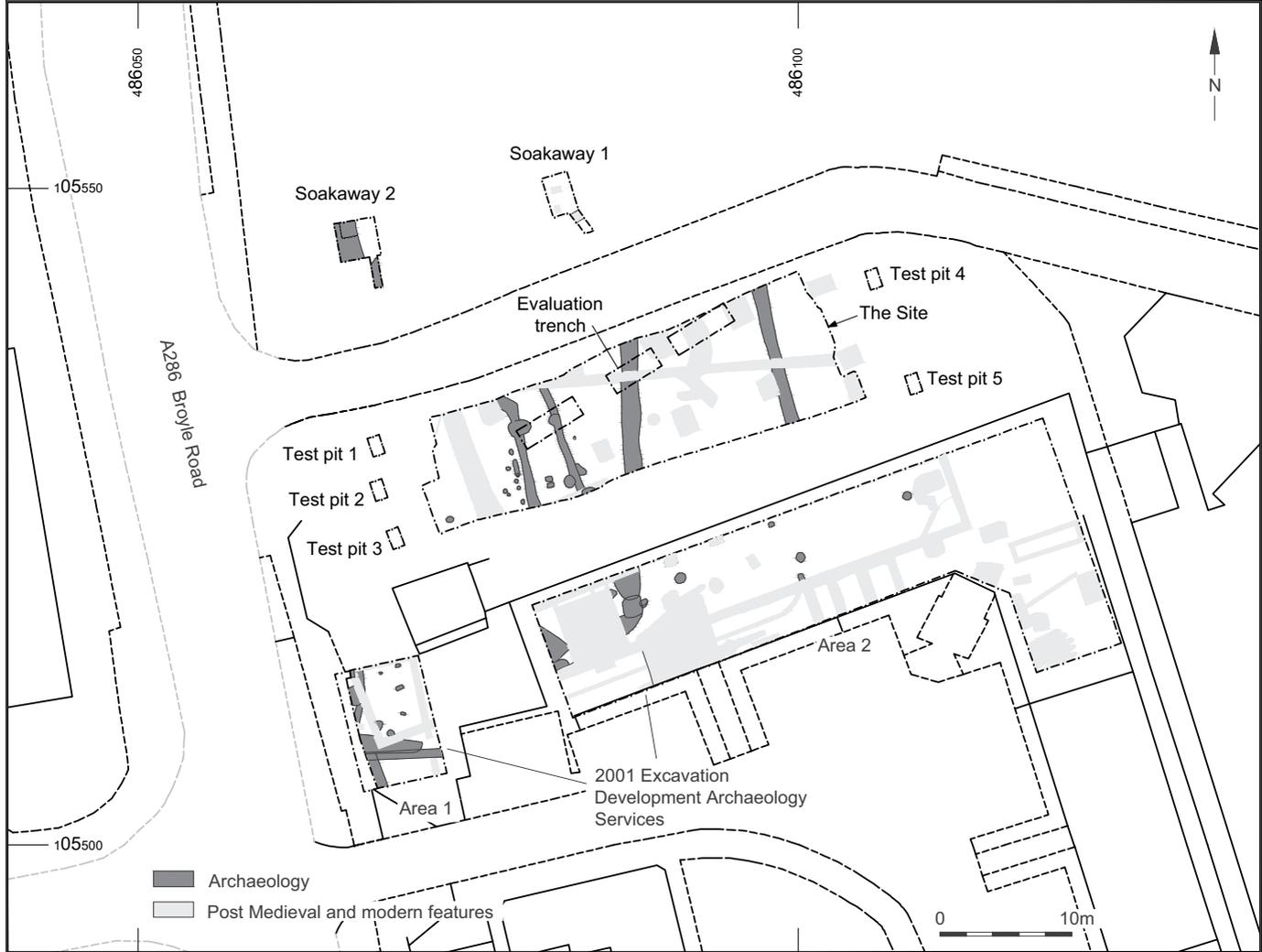


Fig. 3. Plan of features in relation to 2001 excavation.

phase around the late 3rd or 4th century (Hunter and Pine 2004, 17). Six refuse pits of 1st and 2nd-century date were identified. Further evidence of Roman occupation in this area was revealed during an evaluation undertaken in 2004 to the south-west (Fig. 1). A north-easterly aligned 1st-century AD ditch (which did not continue through to adjacent trenches) was identified, and a spread of 1st–2nd-century pottery, including waster fragments, may suggest the presence of a kiln in the vicinity (James 2004, 7).

During the medieval period, the site lay within the Broyle, a forest granted by Henry III to the Bishop of Chichester in 1229 (Morgan 1992, 191). This area would therefore have lacked the suburban development that characterised the areas outside the east, west and south gates. This land was subsequently divided into farming units and leased out. While most of the Broyle remained in the hands of the Bishop of Chichester, it is likely that this plot of land belonged to the Guild of St George. The almshouse was founded in 1625. In 1681 it was converted to a workhouse, and in 1753 it became a poor-house for the eight united parishes of the city (Morgan 1992, 194).

EXCAVATION RESULTS

PHASE 1: LATE IRON AGE TO EARLY ROMAN PERIOD

A north–south orientated ditch (ditch 1) was identified at the eastern end of the site. Two small pottery fragments of Late Iron Age–early Roman date, from the single fill, were the only dating evidence present.

PHASE 2: ROMAN (LATE 2ND TO MID/LATE 3RD CENTURY AD)

Ditch 2 lay to the west of ditch 1 and measured 1.24m in width by 0.49m in depth. Although broadly on a north–south alignment, it is orientated at a slight angle to ditch 1. This feature produced pottery dating to AD 180–300, and is interpreted as a boundary or drainage ditch which was abandoned and silted up some time after the late 2nd century. The ditch aligns with a series of intercutting pits of Roman date uncovered in the 2001 excavation to the south, and it is possible that the northernmost pit represents the ditch terminal (Fig. 3).

To the west lay broadly parallel ditches 3 and 4. These ditches contained small but varied assemblages, including fragments of Roman tile, daub, iron, slag and animal bone. Environmental

samples produced evidence of spelt wheat. The pottery recovered dates from AD 120 to 300, perhaps tending towards the latter end of this date range. These two ditches may define the extent of a trackway, perhaps leading towards the possible timber-framed building identified in 2001.

A feature containing Roman pottery which was identified in soakaway 2 (Fig. 3) may also represent part of a north–south orientated ditch, although the very limited area observed precludes confident interpretation.

A substantial sub-oval pit [139] had been cut through underlying ditch 4 (Fig. 2). The lower fills of this pit contained a fragment of slag, bone fragments including fish, marine molluscs, Roman brick and a small assemblage of pottery dated AD 180–300. Above this, [182] is thought to represent a form of post-packing or pit lining comprising large fragments of Upper Greensand stone, Roman brick, tegula and imbrex, and large amphorae sherds (Fig. 2 detail). An area of later intrusion at the surface of the feature contained redeposited Roman material in association with a fragment of medieval peg tile.

At the western end of the site, a limited concentration of small pits and post-holes was identified. These features were generally circular, with ill-defined edges. While it is tempting to suggest the possibility of a structure in this area, the evidence is not compelling. The features are perhaps better interpreted as the remnants of fence lines (possibly of different phases) aligned in respect to ditch 4. Dating evidence is poor, with only features [148], [159] and [178] producing a few fragments of pottery dated to AD 180–300. However, given the similarities in the colour, texture and composition of the fills, these features have been interpreted as broadly contemporary and appear to form a rough alignment along the western edge of ditch 4.

PHASE 3: ROMAN (LATE 3RD CENTURY AD)

A cremation urn [117] with an accessory vessel [118] was identified in the southern-central part of the site, located within a c. 0.10–0.20m thick silty clay subsoil layer [103] that overlay the natural Brickearth. The urn was therefore situated at a slightly higher level than that at which the surrounding archaeological features had become visible. Layer [103] was very similar in colour and composition to the Brickearth, and may represent the bioturbated and weathered surface of the underlying natural geology.

The surviving form and fabric of the coarse grey ware cremation urn were insufficient for close dating. It was found to contain highly fragmented pieces of cremated human bone, probably the remains of a single, female individual. The accessory vessel was a small New Forest beaker dated AD 270–360, and therefore represents the latest phase of Roman activity, dating to sometime within the late 3rd century.

PHASE 4: MEDIEVAL

Medieval activity on the site was represented by a single post-hole [123] which cut ditch 4; a mixed assemblage of Roman pottery, medieval tile and a medieval copper-alloy mount was recovered (Fig. 4, RF <9>). The mount is complete, with integral rivets representing a crude fleur de lis, a relatively common motif for this period (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, fig. 1481, early 15th century; Egan and Pritchard 1991, nos 1077, 1084 and 1086, late 13th to mid 14th century).

PHASE 5: POST-MEDIEVAL

A post-medieval pit was partly exposed extending out from the baulk in the south-east corner of the site [105]. Two further small pits or post-holes [149] and [151] to the west of the site were situated side by side, and were found to contain oyster shell and a clay-pipe stem fragment of the later 17th to mid 18th century.

A post-medieval brick-lined structure was identified in the centre of the site [180]. The structure was circular, and constructed of re-used snapped unbonded bricks, which were manufactured locally between c. 1600 and 1750. The feature had been infilled with large quantities of brick, tile, iron, slate and concrete fragments. Initially this feature was thought to represent the remains of a well. However, upon excavation it was established that the structure (identified at a depth of 13.83mOD) was only 0.22m deep, with no lining or brick bonding. It is therefore thought to represent a brick-lined pit relating to one of the workhouse outbuildings shown on the Chichester town map of 1875.

FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

THE PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN POTTERY

by Anna Doherty

Introduction

A moderate assemblage of 567 sherds, weighing 10.73kg and amounting to 3.76 EVEs (estimated vessel equivalents), was recovered from the site. Most deposits produced only small groups of pottery, generally datable to the late 2nd to mid/late 3rd century. However, individual contexts often contained fairly mixed dating, including smaller quantities of residual 1st- to mid 2nd-century material.

The pottery was examined using a ×20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight and EVEs on pro-forma sheets retained for the archive. In the absence of a regional type series for Sussex, the London fabric and form type-series was used with some additional codes for local fabrics detailed in Table 1 (Marsh and Tyers 1979; Davies *et al.* 1994).

Prehistoric/earlier Roman

Five residual sherds of coarse ill-sorted flint-tempered fabrics with non-sandy matrixes, likely to date to the later Bronze Age, constitute the earliest material in the assemblage. Around 3% of the total is made up of Late Iron Age/early Roman tempered wares: predominantly fine sandy flint-tempered fabrics with a few grog-tempered examples.

First-century Roman types which, like the tempered wares, are generally sparsely distributed as residual elements in later features include a Drag. 27g cup in La Graufesenque samian, a necked jar in early Rowland's Castle ware with

flint inclusions, a grey ware bead-rim jar and two probable examples of globular/everted rim beakers (e.g. Fig. 4, no. 1) in a silvery grey micaceous ware consistently identified in Neronian to mid-Flavian groups at Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, 188). Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was found in similarly small quantities in an adjacent excavation at Cawley's Almshouses, but this was also largely considered residual (Lyne 2004, 20).

Possible later 1st- to earlier 2nd-century activity is also suggested by a few sherds of Highgate Wood C ware and Upchurch fine reduced ware, a hooked flange mortarium of Sussex or Surrey (possibly Wiggonholt) origin and a Rowlands Castle reeded-rim bowl (Fig. 4, no. 2), as well as a number of earlier 2nd-century forms in Lezoux samian, including a Drag. 18–31R dish, two Drag. 27 cups and a Curle 11 bowl. Again, this material appears to be entirely residual, although the latter vessels could be curated items, contemporary with the main phase of activity on the site. However, a few stratified groups of Hadrianic/Antonine date were found nearby at Cawley's Almshouses (Southern Archaeology 1988), so most pottery of this date probably represents background residual material derived from earlier features in the vicinity.

Late 2nd to mid/late 3rd century

Coarse wares

Rowlands Castle grey ware, which accounts for around a quarter of the total assemblage, is by far the most common sourced fabric. This industry was shown to be the most important supplier of coarse wares from the late 1st century onwards at the recently excavated Shippam's site (Lyne and Gerrard 2008, 232). The classic round-bodied, everted-rim jar form (Fig. 4, nos 3 & 4) associated with this industry accounts for around 40% of EVEs, and other forms include a plain-rim

dish (Fig. 4, no. 7) and several bodysherds of the characteristic large cable-rim jar with internal fingermarks. These types, which can probably be dated to after *c.* AD 180 (Lyne *n.d.*), were present in most of the well-stratified Roman groups.

Unsourcesd grey wares are the most common fabric type by sherd count, but make up a much smaller percentage by weight. A significant proportion of these sherds may originate in the Arun Valley, although some of the features on the site almost certainly date to the period after the collapse of that industry in the early 3rd century (Lyne 2003, 145). It is possible that the smaller average sherd size associated with these fabrics indicates a high degree of residuality. However, the large rounded quartz inclusions and the high proportion of coarse oxidised wares seen in the Arun Valley kiln assemblage from Littlehampton (Laidlaw 2002) do not seem to be very prevalent features among the unsourcesd coarse wares in this assemblage. It therefore seems possible that many of them are from more local sources.

A large proportion of the oxidised wares are made up of sherds from a single near-complete pear-shaped jar (Fig. 4, no. 5), possibly related to Fishbourne form 324, which is dated to the late 2nd to early 3rd century (Cunliffe 1971, 240). However, it has a very small base which makes the form seem unstable, and it is possible that it served a bottle/amphora-like function. The fabric is distinctive with a clean matrix, containing common iron-stained quartz of 0.3–0.5mm and rare clay pellets. It is fairly similar to Hampshire white-wares but contains rare, very coarse flint inclusions of up to 10mm. A possible parallel was found among the non-kiln products at Wiggonholt (Evans 1974, no. 137, fig. 15, 141).

The relatively low proportion of BB1 indicates that activity in this area was tailing off by *c.* AD 250, as production of this ware and its distribution to the South-East increased markedly at around this date (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 94). In Chichester, Lyne has noted that an early 3rd-century group from the Cattlemarket site contained around 5% BB1 (a proportion comparable to this assemblage), while this ware contributes almost a third of the pottery in two mid 3rd-century pit groups from the Central Girls School site (Lyne *n.d.*; Down 1978, 262). This aspect of the dating is also supported by the proportions of Black-burnished style forms, since there are examples of both flat (Fig. 4, no. 6) and rounded rim bowls but only one example of the post-AD 250 bead and flange bowl form. Also notably lacking from this group are Alice Holt/Farnham and Portchester D wares, which were found among the material from the destruction of the nearby building at Cawley's Almshouses (Lyne 2004, 20–1), again suggesting that activity in the current area does not extend much beyond *c.* AD 270.

Table 1. Quantification of assemblage by fabric.

Fabric	Expansion	Ct	Wt (g)	% Ct	% Wt
BAETE	Baetican amphorae	32	3324	5.6%	31.0%
BB1	Black burnished ware 1	15	192	2.6%	1.8%
BB2	Black burnished ware 2	3	12	0.5%	0.1%
BBS	Black burnished style wares	15	132	2.6%	1.2%
CCRB	Unsourcesd colour-coated ware	1	4	0.2%	<0.1%
FINE	Unsourcesd fine reduced wares	2	8	0.4%	0.1%
FLIN1	LBA flint-tempered	5	10	0.9%	0.1%
FLIN2	LIA/early Roman flint-tempered	11	58	1.9%	0.5%
FMIC	Fine micaceous ware	13	64	2.3%	0.6%
GAUL	Gaulish amphora	1	4	0.2%	<0.1%
GROG	Grog-tempered ware	1	2	0.2%	<0.1%
GRFL	Grog and flint-tempered ware	1	4	0.2%	<0.1%
HAMWW	Hampshire white-ware	1	12	0.2%	0.1%
HWC	Highgate Wood C ware	3	12	0.5%	0.1%
MORT	Unsourcesd mortaria	2	58	0.4%	0.5%
NFCC	New Forest colour-coated ware	12	26	2.1%	0.2%
NFRC	New Forest red-slipped ware	1	2	0.2%	<0.1%
NFWW	New Forest white ware	11	666	1.9%	6.2%
NKGW	North Kent (Upchurch) fine ware	1	2	0.2%	0.0%
OXID	Unsourcesd oxidised ware	86	1186	15.2%	11.1%
OXIDF	Unsourcesd fine oxidised ware	2	8	0.4%	0.1%
OXWS	Oxfordshire white-slipped ware	10	52	1.8%	0.5%
OXWS/RC	Oxfordshire white or red-slipped ware	7	16	1.2%	0.1%
RCGW	Rowlands Castle grey ware	137	2686	24.2%	25.0%
RCGWF	Rowlands Castle grey ware with flint	5	20	0.9%	0.2%
RWS	Unsourcesd white-slipped wares	7	18	1.2%	0.2%
SAMLG	La Graufesenque samian	2	4	0.4%	0.0%
SAMLZ	Lezoux samian	22	238	3.9%	2.2%
SAND	Unsourcesd sandy grey-wares	155	1856	27.3%	17.3%
WIGWW	Wiggonholt white-ware	3	56	0.5%	0.5%
Total		567	10,732	100.0%	100.0%

Amphorae

Making up almost a third of the assemblage by weight (but only 5% by sherd count), Baetican amphorae are more common than might be expected in an assemblage of this date. However, a large proportion of the weight total is made up by some very large sherds re-used in feature [182].

New Forest/Oxfordshire products

New Forest mortaria and colour-coated wares, from a maximum of seven vessels, are the only material in the assemblage which is certainly datable to the late 3rd century. Only one of these, a folded New Forest beaker accompanying the cremation, is securely stratified; this vessel appears at the end of the Roman sequence. However, two New Forest mortaria (Fig. 4, nos 8 & 9) from post-Roman context [102] are very large sherds in good condition, suggesting they could have been redeposited from a truncated late Roman context. Similarly small quantities of Oxfordshire white-slipped red wares are present, including a few sherds from stratified Roman contexts, although no certain examples of similar red-slipped wares which would provide an unambiguous late 3rd- to 4th-century date were recovered.

The cremation vessels

Two vessels accompanying a cremation group were recovered in a very truncated state (not illustrated). The cremated bone was interred in a grey ware jar of which only the base and a few lower wall sherds survive. The fabric is unsourced; its coarse sandy fabric compares well with wares produced around Littlehampton and elsewhere in the Arun Valley (Laidlaw 2002). This industry is thought to have declined markedly in the 3rd century, although recent work adjacent to the former HRI Littlehampton kiln site has shown that fabrics indistinguishable from the kiln products still make up a significant proportion of late 3rd-century groups (Doherty in prep). The cremation was accompanied by an accessory vessel: a folded beaker in New Forest colour-coated ware which provides a *terminus post quem* of around AD 260/70 for the group. However, this vessel had been so truncated that it is represented only by fragmentary bodysherds.

Discussion

The dating of individual features is hindered by fairly low levels of diagnostic feature sherds and lack of large, well-stratified groups. However, the general homogeneity of fabrics and forms suggests that the most intensive period of Roman activity can be dated fairly closely to the late 2nd to mid/late 3rd century, although some significant 1st- and earlier 2nd-century occupation in the vicinity is suggested by the fairly substantial residual assemblage of this date.

Although the assemblage perhaps provides too small a sample to draw any firm conclusions about function and status, it is interesting to note that, when the residual earlier Roman material is removed from the quantification, this is an assemblage remarkably dominated by coarse wares, with no contemporary imports and very few Romano-British fine wares or table wares forms. This may reflect the extra-mural location of the site; however, there are few directly contemporary groups published in full from the city. In addition, the lack of fully quantified groups in older Chichester publications makes it difficult at present to define whether there are any clear distinctions in function or status between intra- and extra-mural assemblages from the city.

Illustrated pottery (Fig. 4)

- P1 FMIC Globular beaker in silvery grey micaceous ware [147]
- P2 RCGW Reeded-rim bowl [198]
- P3 RWCG Rowlands Castle grey ware round-bodied everted-rim jar [102]
- P4 RCGW Rowlands Castle grey ware round-bodied everted-rim jar [147]
- P5 OXID Lower wall of pear-shaped jar in unsourced oxidised ware [140]
- P6 BB1 Rounded-rim dish with acute lattice decoration [102]
- P7 SAND Plain-rim dish [102]
- P8 NFWW New Forest mortarium [102]
- P9 NFWW New Forest mortarium [102]

CREMATED BONE

by Lucy Sibun

Introduction

A single context [117] produced cremated human bone, recovered from a heavily truncated urn. During micro-excavation of the urn, bone fragments were collected by spit, and plans were drawn at each stage.

Methods

Recording and analysis of the bone followed the procedures outlined by McKinley (2004a). Age estimations were carried out with reference to Bass (1987) and Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994), and sex was estimated from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994).

Results

Table 2 details the weight of fragments representing each skeletal area within each spit, divided by fragment size. The quantity in each skeletal area is also shown as a percentage of the identified assemblage.

Approximately 80% of the assemblage was assignable to skeletal area. Of the identifiable assemblage, the majority represents the upper limbs. The lower limbs and skull form approximately 17% and 11% of the identified material respectively, and the axial skeleton only 4%. The small quantity of bone recovered from the axial skeleton probably results from the acidic nature of the soil; a large proportion of the axial skeleton consists of less dense trabecular bone, which is more easily destroyed by acidic soil conditions (McKinley 2004b, 3).

Demographic information

The assemblage appears to represent a single individual. On the basis of fragment size alone, the individual is assumed to be adult. Unfortunately, the analysis did not uncover further information with regard to age. The fragment of sciatic notch recovered from spit 1 indicates that the individual may be female, but this can only be an estimate, based on one fragment. No fragments showed signs of pathology.

Pyre technology and cremation ritual

The weight of bone recovered was 223.2gm, representing approximately 14% of the expected body weight for an adult (McKinley 1993), but it is likely that this small quantity reflects the damage and truncation suffered by the vessel. The damage may also have had a detrimental effect on the fragmentation of bone, the majority of fragments falling between 5 and 20mm in size.

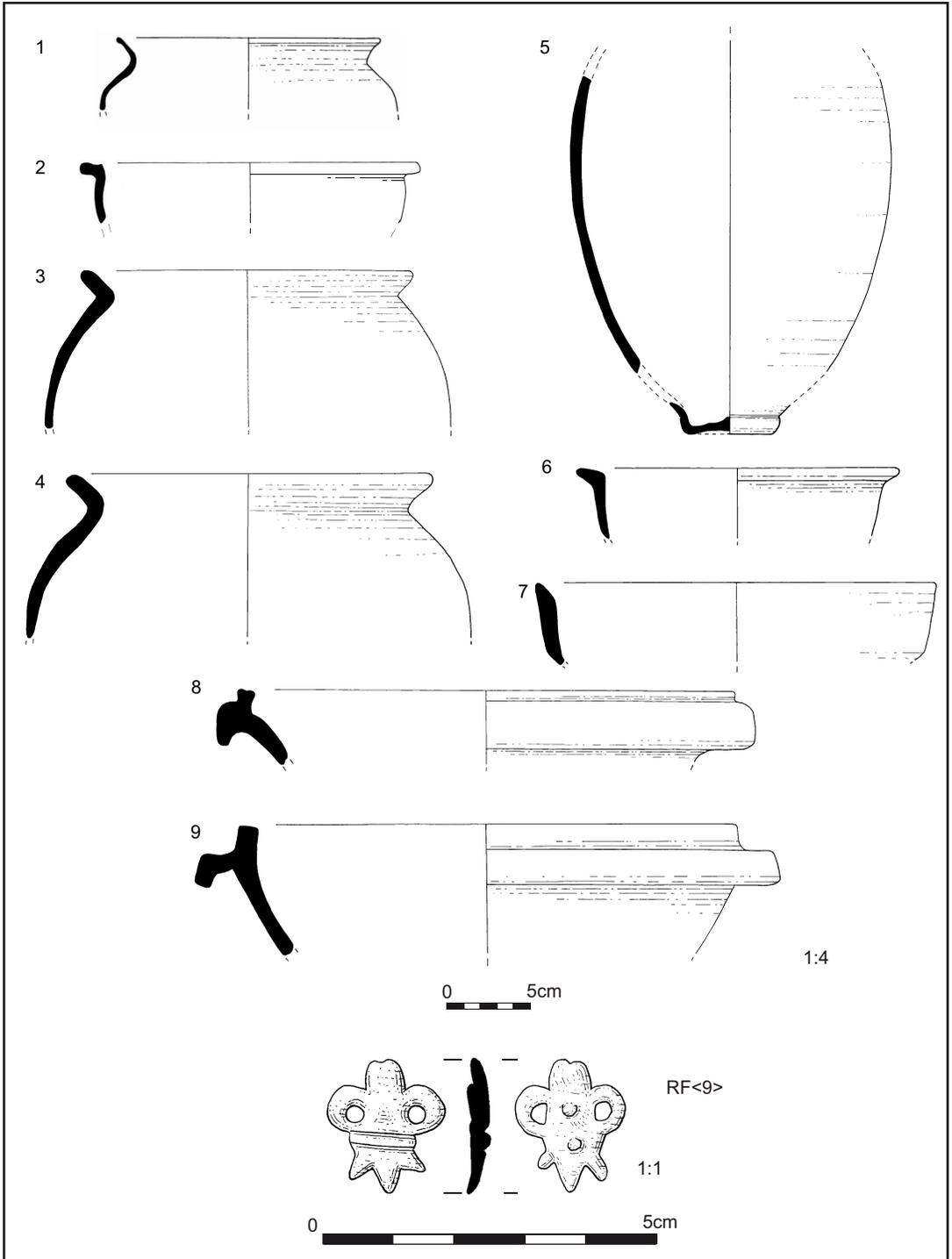


Fig. 4. Illustrated Roman pottery and leather mount RF <9>.

Table 2. Summary of results from analysis of cremated bone.

Spit no.	Fragment size (mm)	SKELETAL ELEMENT (weight/grams)					TOTAL
		Skull	Axial	Upper limb	Lower limb	Unident.	
1	0-4	3				1.8	38.4
	5-10	2.4		23.5		1	
	11-20	0.8	2.2	3.7			
	21-30						
	30+			5.9			
2	0-4					11.6	79
	5-10			17.6			
	11-20	1.9		19.9	4.4	3.7	
	21-30	2.5		4.3			
	30+			7.7	5.4		
3	0-4			<1		<1	54.7
	5-10	1.1		22.2			
	11-20	5.7	2.8	10.2	2.5		
	21-30				8.3		
	30+			1.9			
4	0-4					2.4	45.2
	5-10	<1		12.8	3.6	1	
	11-20	4.3	2.8	5.3	2.8	3.7	
	21-30				6.5		
TOTAL		21.7	7.8	135	33.5		
% of identifiable material		10.9	3.9	68.2	16.9		

The entire assemblage is off-white in colour, indicating an effective cremation process. No animal bone or other pyre debris was noted within the assemblage, and no staining was present on the bone.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL by Susan Pringle

Introduction

A total of 140 fragments of Roman, medieval and post-medieval ceramic building material weighing 14.802kg was examined from 25 contexts. Of these, one context was large (25-50 fragments); the remainder contained fewer than 25 fragments. The total weight and number of fragments from each period are set out in Table 3.

Methodology

All the ceramic building material was quantified by fabric, form, weight and fragment count and the data recorded on a standard recording form. Fabric descriptions were compiled with the aid of a $\times 20$ binocular microscope and a fabric type series was drawn up; fabrics were cross-referenced to the Museum of London (MoL) type series for tile fabrics where applicable. The information on the recording sheets was entered into an Excel database. Samples of the fabrics and items of interest were retained in the archive; the remainder of the material (approximately 90%) was discarded.

Summary of fabrics and forms

Roman

Roman tile came from fourteen contexts, of which three also contained post-Roman ceramic building materials. Most of the Roman tile was in an orange-red, iron-rich fabric with common, medium to coarse grade, quartz sand (fabric CFT/R1). The majority of the remaining fabrics seemed to be textural variations of similar clays. Two variants with cream silty banding were present, with mainly fine quartz (CFT/R3), and with very little quartz (CFT/R2). Also present were a red fabric with flint inclusions (CFT/R4) and a light brown fabric with abundant fine grey shell (CFT/R5). Fabric CFT/R5, which is identical to MoL fabric 2457, belongs to a group of late Roman tile fabrics from southern England with a distribution centred on the Solent area; tiles in this fabric were produced between c. AD 150 and 300 (Betts and Foot 1994). There is no dating information for the other fabrics.

In the fabric descriptions the following conventions are used:

- the frequency of inclusions is described as sparse, moderate, common or abundant
- the size categories for inclusions are fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (between 0.25 and 0.5 mm), coarse (between 0.5 and 1mm), and very coarse (greater than 1mm).

Table 3. Quantification of the ceramic building materials by period.

Period	No. of fragments	% of total count	Weight (grams)	% of total weight
Roman brick and tile	46	33%	8776	59%
Medieval/early post-medieval roof tile	71	51%	1590	11%
Post-medieval brick	17	12%	4354	29%
Undated ceramic building materials	6	4%	82	1%
Total	140	100%	14,802	100%

CFT/R1: orange-red, lumpy matrix with very coarse clay/silt fragments, moderate to common medium/coarse quartz, moderate medium to very coarse dark-red iron-rich material (Cf MoL 3019). Brick, tegula and imbrex, 33 fragments

CFT/R2: orange with silty bands and common fine to medium dark-red iron-rich inclusions, only very sparse quartz. Finer than R3. Tegula, 1 fragment

CFT/R3: orange banded with cream; common fine quartz and medium to very coarse red iron-rich inclusions; sparse coarse quartz grains. Brick, 3 fragments

CFT/R4: fine orange-red fabric with moderate to common medium to coarse flint (<c. 6mm), medium/coarse quartz and moderate fine to medium red iron-rich inclusions. Tegula and ?brick, 3 fragments

CFT/R5: brown fabric with paler silty lumps and abundant fine calcareous material, including grey shell. Sparse dark-red iron-rich material and medium quartz grains. (= MoL 2457). Tegula, 2 fragments

The Roman tile types were limited to roofing tile and brick (Table 4). Tegula fragments were the most frequent, with smaller counts of brick and imbrex. The material was generally abraded and no complete bricks or tiles were present. Bricks ranged from 34mm to 42.5mm in thickness, the median being 38mm. Conjoining brick fragments were noted from ditch 3 fill [136], and pit [139], fill [182].

Medieval and post-medieval brick and tile

Post-Roman ceramic building materials occurred in fifteen contexts. Almost all the material was abraded and provided little typological information. The degree of abrasion made precise identification difficult in some cases, but peg tile, also known as plain tile, accounted for approximately 80% of the post-Roman building materials, and possible ridge tile (not readily identifiable in small fragments) approximately 3%. The remainder of the post-Roman assemblage was post-medieval brick.

The post-Roman tile fabrics could be divided into two main groups, silty and sandy fabrics. The silty fabrics accounted for over 70% of the roof-tile assemblage (by fragment count); CFT/1 contained coarse flint and quartz, as did a slightly finer variant, CFT/2, both of which were tentatively dated to c. AD 1250–1400. Two finer versions which lacked the flint inclusions, CFT/5 and the most abundant post-Roman fabric CFT/6, were provisionally dated to between c. 1350 and the early post-medieval period. Within the sandy fabric group some variation was noted in the quantity and

Table 4. Roman tile types by count and weight.

Form	Count	% of total count	Weight (grams)	% of total weight
Imbrex	4	13%	652	8%
Tegula	17	57%	2206	27%
Brick	9	30%	5608	66%
Total	30	100%	8466	100%

sorting of the quartz. The most abundant fabric, CFT/3, was light brown with a grey core and contained abundant fine to medium quartz and black grains, possibly glauconite; the suggested date range for this type is c. 1250–1400. A variant with finer quartz, CFT/3f, probably had a similar date range, and a well-fired red version, CFT/4, was probably of post-medieval date.

CFT/1: orange, with moderate medium to coarse quartz and red iron-rich material. Common coarse to very coarse (<c. 4mm) flint inclusions. Peg tile, 14 fragments

CFT/2: fine orange clay, sparse fine to medium red silty inclusions. Moderate to common inclusions of medium to very coarse flint and medium to coarse quartz. Peg tile?, 2 fragments

CFT/3: light brown with grey core; common to abundant fine/medium quartz and black grains (glauconite?), sparse coarse quartz. 1 contains sparse flint. 1 is glazed. Peg and ?ridge tile, 11 fragments

CFT/3f: light brown with grey core; abundant very fine to fine quartz, sparse medium and coarse quartz, reduced core. Fine version of CFT/3. Ridge or peg tile, 1 fragment

CFT/4: fine sand, dark-red iron, some light silty bands. Well fired. Post-medieval? Peg tile, 6 fragments

CFT/5: orange with varying quantities of paler silty lenses and fine quartz; red iron-rich inclusions. Peg tile, 8 fragments

CFT/6: orange, some paler silty streaks (but usually less silt than CFT/5), and sparse medium to coarse quartz grains. Iron-rich. Peg tile, 33 fragments

Peg tile

Most was too abraded to provide much typological information; there were no complete tiles or even complete dimensions present. Tiles in the silty fabrics were 11–12mm

Table 5. Surviving dimensions of bricks in fabric CFT/B2 from structure [180].

Length mm	Breadth mm	Thick mm	Comments
198+	120	45	Wear-abraded flooring brick. Fine moulding sand, sharp arrises, slanting pressure mark on stretcher; 1 reduced header, accident?
115+	104	35	As above, including reduced header
133+	118	38	As above, reduced header and base. Keep as sample

thick; tiles in the sandy group showed a little more variability at 10–13mm thick. Only one nail-hole was recorded, a square hole set diagonally on a tile in fabric CFT/6. This type is usually of late medieval or early post-medieval date (context [106]). Greenish glaze was recorded on one tile in fabric CFT/3 (context [101]).

Ridge tile

Possible examples of ridge tile were noted in sandy fabrics CFT/3 and CFT/3f.

Post-medieval brick

Two fabrics were present, both likely to be of local manufacture. Contexts [2] and [181] contained fragments in a fine, sandy, orange-red fabric, CFT/B1. The bricks from context [180], a brick structure, were in CFT/B2, an orange-red fabric similar to CFT/B1 but with paler silty streaks.

CFT/B1: orange-red, very fine sandy brick with sparse inclusions of coarse to very coarse flint and medium to coarse quartz. 11 fragments

CFT/B2: similar to CFT/B1 with cream or orange silty lensing. Sample of 3 bricks

All the bricks were fragmentary; surviving dimensions for the brick sample from brick-lined structure [180] are set out in Table 5. The probable date range of manufacture for these bricks is *c. AD* 1600–1750. All three bricks in the sample are worn smooth, suggesting that they were previously used or re-used in a brick floor. Their breadth dimensions are comparable to those of the bricks from Ede's House and Pallant House, Chichester, dated 1697 and *c.* 1713 respectively (Lloyd 1925, 91, 93).

Summary

The Roman assemblage consists of the more common tile types: tegulae, imbrices and bricks. There is nothing to indicate primary deposition, and no specialised tile types are present. The assemblage is likely to represent re-use of material, probably in the later 2nd or 3rd centuries *AD*. The consistency of the fabrics suggests that most, if not all, of the material was locally sourced. The presence of calcareous tile fabric CFT/R6 provides further evidence of the distribution of this late Roman group.

The post-Roman assemblage consists of fragmentary medieval and post-medieval roofing tile with some post-medieval brick. Apart from the bricks from structure [180], there is nothing to suggest primary deposition. The brick sample from structure [180] may consist of re-used bricks, although they are unlikely to pre-date the 17th century.

DISCUSSION

The results of this excavation contribute to a growing body of knowledge of the character and development of the extra-mural landscape surrounding the Roman city of Chichester. The excavation has produced evidence of predominately Roman mid 2nd- to late 3rd-century activity, with an indication of earlier settlement in the vicinity, broadly corresponding with the findings of the excavation undertaken at Cawley's Almshouses in 2001.

The Roman activity from the Chichester Festival Theatre site dated for the most part from the late 2nd to mid/late 3rd century *AD* and is comparable with the dates proposed for the second phase of the timber-silled building (Hunter and Pine 2004, 17). However, no further evidence for structural remains was identified, although the probable trackway and associated fence line, field boundaries, and scattered pits and post-holes may be associated with the building to the

south. It is important to note the small quantity of Roman building material recovered from the site, including a single fragment of daub with wattle imprints and 30 pieces of Roman brick, tegula and imbrex tiles. Some 1st and earlier 2nd-century occupation nearby is suggested by the fairly substantial residual assemblage of this date.

No direct evidence of the Chichester–Silchester road was obtained during the excavation. Settlement and burial evidence appears to support the likelihood of a road in the proximity of the site, but there is no clear evidence that any of the ditches identified represent zonal roadside ditches. No evidence of road metalling was obtained, and the probable trackway (ditches 3 and 4) would make ditch 2 an unlikely candidate for an eastern zonal ditch. However, the approximate north-south orientation of the ditches identified on site may be significant. If the modern alignment of the Broyle Road preserves the line of the northern Roman road leading from the town, it is possible that this alignment influenced wider patterns of

land division within this area.

The cremation burial is thought to represent the latest Roman activity identified at the site, dating to the late 3rd century AD. Fig. 5 shows the location of known burials. Considered together with the two funerary vessels identified in 1998, the cremation adds further evidence for Roman burial occurring to the north of the northern city gate. It is not known whether the sparse burial record identified reflects a dispersed burial pattern, possibly at the margins of the Northgate cemetery, or simply poor survival and identification rates. The latter is thought to be an important factor, as the burial was identified within the subsoil of the site and is thought to have been heavily truncated by later ploughing. A similar situation was present during the identification of the other cremation vessels in 1998 (James Kenny pers. comm.).

The fieldwork has obtained evidence of both Roman settlement and funerary activity within this area to the north of the north city gate. While it is possible that a change from a settlement to a burial landscape postdated the construction of the town walls (Down 1978, 9), the evidence obtained during these phases of fieldwork is too fragmentary to confirm this.

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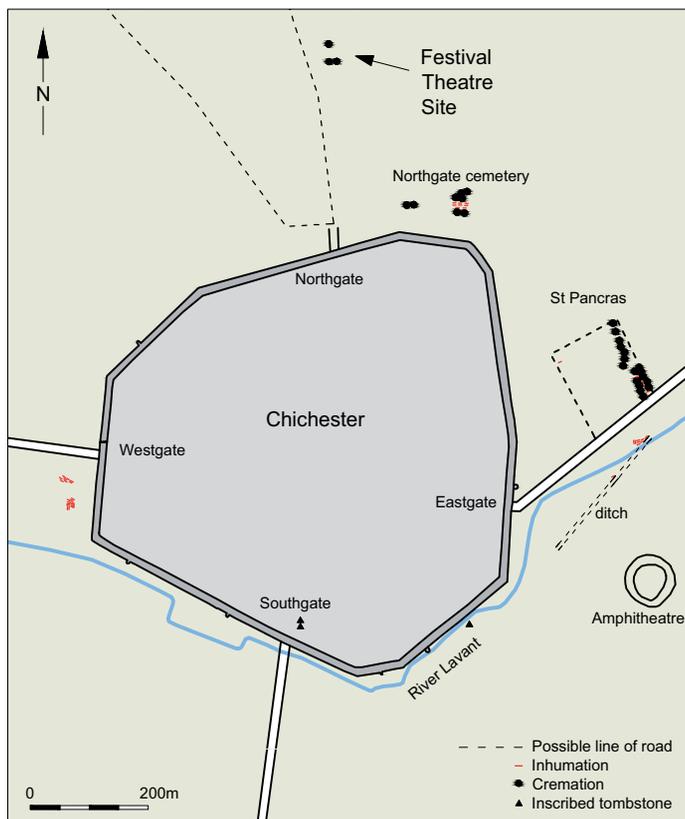


Fig. 5. Plan of Roman Chichester showing location of known burials.

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