



By John Manley and David Rudkin for the Sussex Archaeological Society

President: Barry Cunliffe

Funded by the Roman Research Trust, Royal Archaeological Institute, West Sussex County Council, Sussex Archaeological Society and the British Academy

\*\* The designation of periods cited here correlates with, and expands upon, those in the principal site report (Cunliffe 1971) and in Chichester Volume IX (Cunliffe et al 1996).

Period 0 : prehistoric

Period 1a : military store base (AD 43?)

Period 1b : workshop and timber-framed residence (AD 50-60)

Period 1c : proto-palace (AD 60 - 75/80)

Period 2a : Palace (AD 75-80)

Period 2b : Palace (AD100)

Period 3 : Palace (AD100 - 200)

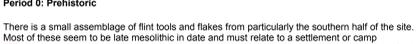
Period 4 : Palace and Post-Palace (AD200+)

Period 5 : 16<sup>th</sup> Century

Period 6 : 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century

**This latest summary incorporates and combines the results from all five seasons of excavations (1995-99). It is intended to provide an overview of the results to date. Three articles dealing with aspects of the excavations are currently being written or are in press, and work on processing quickly the post-excavation material is proceeding. It is our intention that a first draft of the final excavation report will be ready for comment by early 2001.**

**FOR LOCATION OF EXCAVATIONS CLICK ON THE IMAGE BELOW**



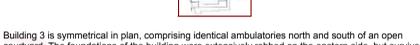
Excavations were undertaken by the Sussex Archaeological Society (directed by John Manley and David Rudkin) at Fishbourne Roman Palace (West Sussex) for periods of six weeks during 1995, 96, 97, 98 and 99. The location of the excavations was just to the east of the main Palace at NGR: SU 8407 0475 (fig 1), within Fishbourne parish. Masonry walls of Roman date had been located by Alec Down in 1963 (Cunliffe et al 1996) in this area. The fifth season of excavations (1999) concentrated on an area to the north of the masonry building (for reconstruction of the building (Building 3) see cover; for ground plan see fig 3), found in the previous seasons. An additional isolated trench (Area B) was dug a distance to the north of the main excavations.

As a result of the excavations it has been possible to divide tentatively the phases of human activity on the site into 10 different periods. These are described in chronological order and the major features from most phases are drawn schematically in figs 2 to 10. It is stressed here that the major features and interpretation will be subject to potential change once the results of the excavation analyses are completed. The phasing of Area B is treated separately below.

Period 0: Prehistoric

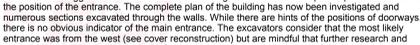
There is a small assemblage of flint tools and flakes from particularly the southern half of the site. Most of these seem to be late mesolithic in date and must be related to a settlement or camp somewhere in the vicinity. Given the former variety of fish and wildfowl in the nearby waters of the Chichester Harbour the presence of a hunting/gathering/fishing camp of this date is not surprising.

Period 1a: [CLICK ON IMAGE FOR FULL SCREEN VIEW](#)



Two beam slots, probably connected through a right angle (although a later feature has removed the evidence) were recovered in 1996. The slot running from N to S appeared to run a small distance to the W. The timber slots would suggest a building with its long axis aligned E-W, and with a width of c. 6m. The alignment of the building, and the small amount of probably pre-Roman pottery within the fill of the beam-slots, would indicate that this structure could be associated with the military buildings found to the west underneath the Palace (Cunliffe 1971). The slots were recognised in the same position as they were in the 1968 season. It is possible there are further traces of the structure continue westwards, or equally that any traces of the structure were removed by the construction of Building 3.

Period 1b: [CLICK ON IMAGE FOR FULL SCREEN VIEW](#)



Building 3 is symmetrical in plan, comprising identical ambulatories north and south of an open courtyard. The foundations of the building were extensively robbed on the eastern side, but survived largely intact on the other three sides (see the northern ambulatory wall). The eastern end of the building is formed by a hall-like structure with two internal cross-walls. The western end of the building is formed by two identically-sized rooms to the west of the eastern ambulatory wall. When excavated the foundations were everywhere 1 metre deep. Such a depth suggests that wall heights in parts or all of the building could have been significant.

Foundations comprised layered flint nodules, with greensand facing blocks once the foundations rose above ground level. Some of the foundations were mortared. In some instances, the foundation trench for the wall was wider than the foundation itself, and a layer of red clay had been placed as a bedding for the foundations. This red clay is likely to have served as a damp-proof course and usually, but not exclusively, it appeared next to wall footings exposed to the elements.

The foundations seem to be a half-timbered building. This assumption rests on the observation that the stone foundations are relatively deep (invariably at least 1 metre, occasionally up to 1.3 metres) and well laid in horizontal courses. The foundations are in the mid-50s some 200 metres east (fig 12), and presumably functioned to deliver water to the proto-palace. Alec Down, on the basis of architectural debris found in the fill of this feature, suggested that the channel was filled during the third quarter of the 1st century AD. Right at the western edge of the excavation the channel bed what appears to be a deep mulling sump or holding tank. It is unclear what the specific arrangements were for collecting water at this point. The crucial junction between stream and aqueduct unfortunately lies underneath the modern stream and may well have been destroyed by it. All we can say at present is that the canalised Roman stream does not appear to be absolutely straight, since it veers slightly back towards the west and disappears under the trench edge. In a further architectural development at this time the smaller leant-to is demolished to make way for a construction road made of crushed greensand blocks, which runs east to west and crosses the canalised stream on a presumed timber bridge. The eastern limits of this greensand road were indeterminate and it is possible that the modern surface has been destroyed by medieval ploughing. Slakes driven into the bed of the stream seem too slight to have supported the bridging planks, and are more likely to have reversed the sides of the stream. The eastern approaches to the bridge were reinforced with hard-standing (see fig 1) covered by gravel. Just to the east of this hard-standing a corner of Claudius was located. To the west, across the stream, there is a radical reorganisation of the space north of the proto-palace (Building 2) to be constructed within the third quarter of the 1st century AD. Building 1 was laid down c. 150 metres to the west (fig 15). It is possible that the construction road was laid down to carry building materials across the stream to the construction site of Building 1.

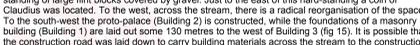
Period 2a: [CLICK ON IMAGE FOR FULL SCREEN VIEW](#)



Masonry wall foundations run to the south and north from the western end of Building 3. The foundations that run to the south were traced across the bottom of the modern stream-bed, and into its western bank. Private property here precludes further investigation. North of Building 3 the wall has been found at least 10 metres. However, no sign of the masonry wall was located in Area B indicating that either the wall terminated (unlikely) or turned (more likely). Sondages were excavated in the angles where these flanking walls joined the west end of Building 3. In both cases it could be seen that the foundations were everywhere of a similar depth and were laid out in a grid, strongly suggesting contemporaneity and a unitary design.

To the north of Building 3 were found five rows of post-holes [1] which seem to have related to at least two phases of a lean-to building, erected up against the north wall of Building 3. Rows 1 and 3 of the post-holes formed the first phase of this lean-to. Assuming the lean-to had as its south wall the modern stream bed, the lean-to would have been 12 metres long. Rows 2, 4 and 5, which are a N-S, in considering the locational setting of Building 3 at this time, it must have faced, across the main road, the half-timbered house and workshop (T4 and T5) discovered in the 1960s. It is possible that the lean-to was built by the late Roman period.

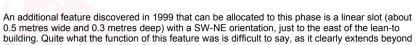
Period 1c: [CLICK ON IMAGE FOR FULL SCREEN VIEW](#)



Intentional re-interiorisation of the eastern part of the site, which is Building 2, with of the site. At the outset of this period the stream canalised some 10 metres to the east of its former position and the old stream bed is filled in. The effect of this is to bring the canalised stream within 5 metres of the western front facade of Building 3. Presumably a building was built previously that lined the stream bed, and the flanking walls that ran north and south from Building 3, these walls could now be dispersed with it. It is likely, therefore, that the flanking walls, but NOT Building 3 itself, were pulled down to top-of-foundation levels at this time.

Another major new feature is that a channel for an aqueduct is laid from east to west, crossing the northern part of the site, and cutting through the demolished masonry flanking wall. This aqueduct is the same feature located by excavations in the mid-50s some 200 metres east (fig 12), and presumably functioned to deliver water to the proto-palace. Alec Down, on the basis of architectural debris found in the fill of this feature, suggested that the channel was filled during the third quarter of the 1st century AD. Right at the western edge of the excavation the channel bed what appears to be a deep mulling sump or holding tank. It is unclear what the specific arrangements were for collecting water at this point. The crucial junction between stream and aqueduct unfortunately lies underneath the modern stream and may well have been destroyed by it. All we can say at present is that the canalised Roman stream does not appear to be absolutely straight, since it veers slightly back towards the west and disappears under the trench edge. In a further architectural development at this time the smaller leant-to is demolished to make way for a construction road made of crushed greensand blocks, which runs east to west and crosses the canalised stream on a presumed timber bridge. The eastern limits of this greensand road were indeterminate and it is possible that the modern surface has been destroyed by medieval ploughing. Slakes driven into the bed of the stream seem too slight to have supported the bridging planks, and are more likely to have reversed the sides of the stream. The eastern approaches to the bridge were reinforced with hard-standing (see fig 1) covered by gravel. Just to the east of this hard-standing a corner of Claudius was located. To the west, across the stream, there is a radical reorganisation of the space north of the proto-palace (Building 2) to be constructed within the third quarter of the 1st century AD. Building 1 was laid down c. 150 metres to the west (fig 15). It is possible that the construction road was laid down to carry building materials across the stream to the construction site of Building 1.

Period 2b: [CLICK ON IMAGE FOR FULL SCREEN VIEW](#)



This is the period when the site at Fishbourne, and no doubt areas peripheral to the site, are absolutely transformed by the construction of the Palace proper. Building 3, however, remains standing, even though the western side of the building is only about 25 metres from the front, eastern facade of the Palace. The construction road is now no longer needed and a near-miraculous event occurs in the late Vespaasian (AD72). Evidence from the 99 season proves that it probably went out of use in the 70s. Whatever was happening in Building 3 there was a renewed need for a lean-to building [3] (despite the difference caused by the construction road), and this was rebuilt in the 1960s (Bishop M. Pars. Com.) on a larger scale, on top of the old surface. Its outline marks by post-holes 2, 4 and 5. The only obvious divergence in plan was that the post-holes and outline of the lean-to now crossed the line of the demolished northern flanking wall and therefore extended slightly further to the west than the western edge of Building 3. Evidence from the 99 season proves that the post-holes forming the eastern end of the lean-to stopped more or less in line with the eastern end of Building 3. The overall area enclosed by the larger lean-to measured some 35 metres E-W and 7 metres N-S.

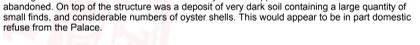
An additional feature discovered in 1999 that can be allocated to this phase is a linear slot beyond the modern stream bed, facing the SW-NE orientation, just to the east of the modern stream bed. Quite what the function of this feature was is difficult to say, as it clearly sits about the area of the excavation. It would be interesting to excavate the area where it crosses the line of the ditch (the latter had been observed also on the south side by Alec Down (Cunliffe et al 1996, 1999) and to ascertain the relationship between the two features. For the time being it is not productive to speculate on its function.

Period 2c: [CLICK ON IMAGE FOR FULL SCREEN VIEW](#)



Around AD 100 there are further developments to the north of Building 3. To the south of the aqueduct a gravel road is laid out, with smaller gravel on the surface capping a foundation of large flint blocks. It may be that at this time the timber bridge across the stream is replaced by a larger one made of stone. Such a bridge would make the central room in the hall possible, and would allow the accumulation of oyster shells. This would appear to be in part domestic refuse from the Palace.

Period 3: [CLICK ON IMAGE FOR FULL SCREEN VIEW](#)



This long period from AD 100 to AD 200 spans a major part of the life of the Palace at Fishbourne. It is likely that Building 3 stood for most of this period, but not because of the great quantity of finds to the north of the building and the scarcity of finds over the building proper. This must indicate that the site was still in use. Although there is no indication from our excavations of how the site descended or lost small objects, it is likely that the gravel road and aqueduct continued to function. North of the aqueduct, possibly after the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century, and certainly after the complete robbing of the first foundations of the northern flanking wall, a large timber building, whose foundations comprised several post-holes, was erected. Only a part of this structure appeared in the 1960s in the hall, and the length and width of the building cannot be ascertained. However, the orientation of the building seems to be east-west. The structure may have disappeared before the Palace itself was terminated by the construction of the SW-NE slot with darker soil containing a large quantity of pottery. As a group of features they seemed curiously heterogeneous. The results of the 99 season provide almost as a series of independent trenches with little attempt at synthesis. Having said that we pay tribute to his resourcefulness in getting the excavation underway with minimal finances and excavating under very difficult conditions. There will come a time, however, when his work will have to be re-evaluated properly and the pottery from the various features looked at again. The work of Southern Archaeology was undertaken on several sites a little further to the east. However, it would not be surprising if the Palace proper was constructed but instead survived perhaps up to the end of the second century. The presence of such a large structure right in front of the main eastern wall of the Palace has important implications for how we view the eastern approaches to the Palace. These issues are the subject of a separate paper (Manley 1999).

Small Finds:

Over the five seasons of the excavations more than twelve thousand small finds have been recovered. These comprise artefacts of metal, glass, bone and stone, tesserae, samian and other fine pottery and scribed or impressed ille. The find spot of each of these has been recorded three dimensionally. The large number of small finds is a reflection of two factors, the scarring of the excavated sites by members of the West Sussex Metal Detecting Society and the presence of Palace midden deposits over the western part of the site.

Many of the small finds have yet to be seen by the appropriate specialists, so a comprehensive survey is not yet possible. The following are comments on some of the more significant items.

By the end of the excavations, the most impressive artefact discovered is the fine oxyntidion found above the infilled Roman stream in 1997. It is oval, slightly less than 10mm across and depicts a rachose and a palm from victory, suggesting that it was a winning horse. The implication is that the owner of the oxyntidion, which found originally in a ring, probably dug gold, would have been the owner of the horse. It is a Roman coin (Hunt M. Pars. Com.) and it would be unreasonable to suggest that it belonged to the putative owner of the Palace, King Togodubnus. Perhaps future excavations should look for a rachose!

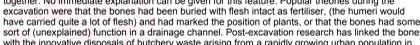
A second, slightly less impressive, find was recovered in 1998, which is still set in the remains of an iron ring. It depicts a lion with a horse's head in its mouth. The lion is a common device and would have been thought to protect the wearer from evil forces (Henig M. Pars. Com.).

A total of 104 coins were recovered from the excavations. The most exciting came to light at the end of the excavations in the form of a silver denarius, the first of its kind discovered in the area. It was a gold quarter-stater of Trajanus (known as Tacimus until the discovery of the Alton, Hants, hoard a few years ago). On the obverse is a bear and the letter TINC in a tablet with a C above it. This is, in essence, a phase when masonry buildings were being built in a ring, probably dug gold, would have been the owner of the horse. It is a Roman coin (Hunt M. Pars. Com.) and it would be unreasonable to suggest that it belonged to the putative owner of the Palace, King Togodubnus. Perhaps future excavations should look for a rachose!

Some of the most interesting about the objects are the finds, which, for convenience rather than accuracy, specialist there is no doubt that many of them are of a military origin. These include a lined bronze belt buckle, similar to one found at Chichester, but with a hinge plate in one flange at Fishbourne in the north. Again, this is a small object, but it is a much larger and more complex arrangement of military scabbard with two attachment lugs surviving. There was also a teardrop shaped pendant from either the end of a belt or an apron, an openwork belt plate, a belt plate in the form of a ring, part of a military buckle and pieces of what may be a sword hilt. Other military objects may also be present but not yet recognised as such. It may be possible to date some of these items reasonably closely and thus gain an idea of the length of the army's presence on the site.

The middle material produced items which underlined the opulence of the Palace on the opposite side of the stream. The iron of a fine, silvered, bronze drinking vessel found in 1998 is a reminder of the life style of the owner, whilst several nodules of blue cupric vitriol, a pigment for use in wall painting, reflects the several thousand square metres of wall painting that decorated the Palace.

**FOR LOCATION OF ALL EXCAVATIONS IN VICINITY OF FISHBOURNE CLICK IMAGE BELOW**

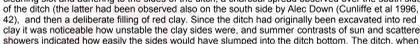


The most tangible result of the 95-99 excavations so far is the recovery of the complete ground plan of a masonry structure (Building 3) just to the north of the Palace. It is possible that the building was erected in the 1st century AD, but the length and width of the building cannot be ascertained. However, the orientation of the building seems to be east-west. The structure may have disappeared before the Palace itself was terminated by the construction of the SW-NE slot with darker soil containing a large quantity of pottery. As a group of features they seemed curiously heterogeneous. The results of the 99 season provide almost as a series of independent trenches with little attempt at synthesis. Having said that we pay tribute to his resourcefulness in getting the excavation underway with minimal finances and excavating under very difficult conditions. There will come a time, however, when his work will have to be re-evaluated properly and the pottery from the various features looked at again. The work of Southern Archaeology was undertaken on several sites a little further to the east. However, it would not be surprising if the Palace proper was constructed but instead survived perhaps up to the end of the second century. The presence of such a large structure right in front of the main eastern wall of the Palace has important implications for how we view the eastern approaches to the Palace. These issues are the subject of a separate paper (Manley 1999).

The function of the masonry building can still not be determined with certainty. In overall size, and in plan form, the building has potential parallels with military principle. Most notable parallels are with the timber principia at Hod Hill and Baginbun, the former Claudian, the latter Roman (Johson 1983, 129). There are other parallels, none of them exact, with principia in Wales (Jarrett 1969, 156). It should be noted that there are variations between principia, so that most illustrate some of the basic functions of the garrison, and the square pit in the eastern range, although not an original feature, a sunken storage room for military stores. It is possible that the unligged pit, lying in the courtyard, was for the storage of water, or a large cistern. Other military objects may also be present but not yet recognised as such. It may be possible to date some of these items reasonably closely and thus gain an idea of the length of the army's presence on the site.

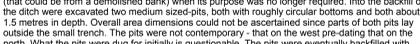
By AD50, or shortly after, the landscape was significantly altered. Our Building 3 was constructed, with its flanking walls, facing the timber building (Building 2) to be constructed within the third quarter of the 1st century AD. Building 1 was laid down c. 150 metres to the west (fig 15). It is possible that the construction road was laid down to carry building materials across the stream to the construction site of Building 1.

Phase 1a: [CLICK ON IMAGE FOR FULL SCREEN VIEW](#)



To the north of Building 3 were found five rows of post-holes [1] which seem to have related to at least two phases of a lean-to building, erected up against the north wall of Building 3. Rows 1 and 3 of the post-holes formed the first phase of this lean-to. Assuming the lean-to had as its south wall the modern stream bed, the lean-to would have been 12 metres long. Rows 2, 4 and 5, which are a N-S, in considering the locational setting of Building 3 at this time, it must have faced, across the main road, the half-timbered house and workshop (T4 and T5) discovered in the 1960s. It is possible that the lean-to was built by the late Roman period.

Phase 1b: [CLICK ON IMAGE FOR FULL SCREEN VIEW](#)

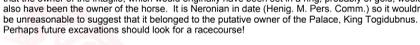


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Foundations comprised layered flint nodules, with greensand facing blocks once the foundations rose above ground level. Some of the foundations were mortared. In some instances, the foundation trench for the wall was wider than the foundation itself, and a layer of red clay had been placed as a bedding for the foundations. This red clay is likely to have served as a damp-proof course and usually, but not exclusively, it appeared next to wall footings exposed to the elements.

The foundations seem to be a half-timbered building. This assumption rests on the observation that the stone foundations are relatively deep (invariably at least 1 metre, occasionally up to 1.3 metres) and well laid in horizontal courses. The foundations are in the mid-50s some 200 metres east (fig 12), and presumably functioned to deliver water to the proto-palace. Alec Down, on the basis of architectural debris found in the fill of this feature, suggested that the channel was filled during the third quarter of the 1st century AD. Right at the western edge of the excavation the channel bed what appears to be a deep mulling sump or holding tank. It is unclear what the specific arrangements were for collecting water at this point. The crucial junction between stream and aqueduct unfortunately lies underneath the modern stream and may well have been destroyed by it. All we can say at present is that the canalised Roman stream does not appear to be absolutely straight, since it veers slightly back towards the west and disappears under the trench edge. In a further architectural development at this time the smaller leant-to is demolished to make way for a construction road made of crushed greensand blocks, which runs east to west and crosses the canalised stream on a presumed timber bridge. The eastern limits of this greensand road were indeterminate and it is possible that the modern surface has been destroyed by medieval ploughing. Slakes driven into the bed of the stream seem too slight to have supported the bridging planks, and are more likely to have reversed the sides of the stream. The eastern approaches to the bridge were reinforced with hard-standing (see fig 1) covered by gravel. Just to the east of this hard-standing a corner of Claudius was located. To the west, across the stream, there is a radical reorganisation of the space north of the proto-palace (Building 2) to be constructed within the third quarter of the 1st century AD. Building 1 was laid down c. 150 metres to the west (fig 15). It is possible that the construction road was laid down to carry building materials across the stream to the construction site of Building 1.

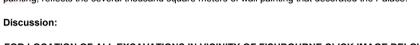
Phase 1c: [CLICK ON IMAGE FOR FULL SCREEN VIEW](#)



Masonry wall foundations run to the south and north from the western end of Building 3. The foundations that run to the south were traced across the bottom of the modern stream-bed, and into its western bank. Private property here precludes further investigation. North of Building 3 the wall has been found at least 10 metres. However, no sign of the masonry wall was located in Area B indicating that either the wall terminated (unlikely) or turned (more likely). Sondages were excavated in the angles where these flanking walls joined the west end of Building 3. In both cases it could be seen that the foundations were everywhere of a similar depth and were laid out in a grid, strongly suggesting contemporaneity and a unitary design.

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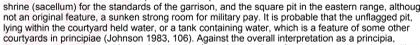
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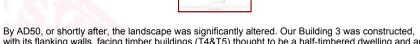
An additional feature discovered in 1999 that can be allocated to this phase is a linear slot beyond the modern stream bed, facing the SW-NE orientation, just to the east of the modern stream bed. Quite what the function of this feature was is difficult to say, as it clearly sits about the area of the excavation. It would be interesting to excavate the area where it crosses the line of the ditch (the latter had been observed also on the south side by Alec Down (Cunliffe et al 1996, 1999) and to ascertain the relationship between the two features. For the time being it is not productive to speculate on its function.

Phase 2c: [CLICK ON IMAGE FOR FULL SCREEN VIEW](#)



Around AD 100 there are further developments to the north of Building 3. To the south of the aqueduct a gravel road is laid out, with smaller gravel on the surface capping a foundation of large flint blocks. It may be that at this time the timber bridge across the stream is replaced by a larger one made of stone. Such a bridge would make the central room in the hall possible, and would allow the accumulation of oyster shells. This would appear to be in part domestic refuse from the Palace.

Phase 3: [CLICK ON IMAGE FOR FULL SCREEN VIEW](#)



This long period from AD 100 to AD 200 spans a major part of the life of the Palace at Fishbourne. It is likely that Building 3 stood for most of this period, but not because of the great quantity of finds to the north of the building and the scarcity of finds over the building proper. This must indicate that the site was still in use. Although there is no indication from our excavations of how the site descended or lost small objects, it is likely that the gravel road and aqueduct continued to function. North of the aqueduct, possibly after the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century, and certainly after the complete robbing of the first foundations of the northern flanking wall, a large timber building, whose foundations comprised several post-holes, was erected. Only a part of this structure appeared in the 1960s in the hall, and the length and width of the building cannot be ascertained. However, the orientation of the building seems to be east-west. The structure may have disappeared before the Palace itself was terminated by the construction of the SW-NE slot with darker soil containing a large quantity of pottery. As a group of features they seemed curiously heterogeneous. The results of the 99 season provide almost as a series of independent trenches with little attempt at synthesis. Having said that we pay tribute to his resourcefulness in getting the excavation underway with minimal finances and excavating under very difficult conditions. There will come a time, however, when his work will have to be re-evaluated properly and the pottery from the various features looked at again. The work of Southern Archaeology was undertaken on several sites a little further to the east. However, it would not be surprising if the Palace proper was constructed but instead survived perhaps up to the end of the second century. The presence of such a large structure right in front of the main eastern wall of the Palace has important implications for how we view the eastern approaches to the Palace. These issues are the subject of a separate paper (Manley 1999).

Small Finds:

Over the five seasons of the excavations more than twelve thousand small finds have been recovered. These comprise artefacts of metal, glass, bone and stone, tesserae, samian and other fine pottery and scribed or impressed ille. The find spot of each of these has been recorded three dimensionally. The large number of small finds is a reflection of two factors, the scarring of the excavated sites by members of the West Sussex Metal Detecting Society and the presence of Palace midden deposits over the western part of the site.

Many of the small finds have yet to be seen by the appropriate specialists, so a comprehensive survey is not yet possible. The following are comments on some of the more significant items.

By the end of the excavations, the most impressive artefact discovered is the fine oxyntidion found above the infilled Roman stream in 1997. It is oval, slightly less than 10mm across and depicts a rachose and a palm from victory, suggesting that it was a winning horse. The implication is that the owner of the oxyntidion, which found originally in a ring, probably dug gold, would have been the owner of the horse. It is a Roman coin (Hunt M. Pars. Com.) and it would be unreasonable to suggest that it belonged to the putative owner of the Palace, King Togodubnus. Perhaps future excavations should look for a rachose!

A second, slightly less impressive, find was recovered in 1998, which is still set in the remains of an iron ring. It depicts a lion with a horse's head in its mouth. The lion is a common device and would have been thought to protect the wearer from evil forces (Henig M. Pars. Com.).

A total of 104 coins were recovered from the excavations. The most exciting came to light at the end of the excavations in the form of a silver denarius, the first of its kind discovered in the area. It was a gold quarter-stater of Trajanus (known as Tacimus until the discovery of the Alton, Hants, hoard a few years ago). On the obverse is a bear and the letter TINC in a tablet with a C above it. This is, in essence, a phase when masonry buildings were being built in a ring, probably dug gold, would have been the owner of the horse. It is a Roman coin (Hunt M. Pars. Com.) and it would be unreasonable to suggest that it belonged to the putative owner of the Palace, King Togodubnus. Perhaps future excavations should look for a rachose!

Some of the most interesting about the objects are the finds, which, for convenience rather than accuracy, specialist there is no doubt that many of them are of a military origin. These include a lined bronze belt buckle, similar to one found at Chichester, but with a hinge plate in one flange at Fishbourne in the north. Again, this is a small object, but it is a much larger and more complex arrangement of military scabbard with two attachment lugs surviving. There was also a teardrop shaped pendant from either the end of a belt or an apron, an openwork belt plate, a belt plate in the form of a ring, part of a military buckle and pieces of what may be a sword hilt. Other military objects may also be present but not yet recognised as such. It may be possible to date some of these items reasonably closely and thus gain an idea of the length of the army's presence on the site.

The middle material produced items which underlined the opulence of the Palace on the opposite side of the stream. The iron of a fine, silvered, bronze drinking vessel found in 1998 is a reminder of the life style of the owner, whilst several nodules of blue cupric vitriol, a pigment for use in wall painting, reflects the several thousand square metres of wall painting that decorated the Palace.

**FOR LOCATION OF ALL EXCAVATIONS IN VICINITY OF FISHBOURNE CLICK IMAGE BELOW**



The most tangible result of the 95-99 excavations so far is the recovery of the complete ground plan of a masonry structure (Building 3) just to the north of the Palace. It is possible that the building was erected in the 1st century AD, but the length and width of the building cannot be ascertained. However, the orientation of the building seems to be east-west. The structure may have disappeared before the Palace itself was terminated by the construction of the SW-NE slot with darker soil containing a large quantity of pottery. As a group of features they seemed curiously heterogeneous. The results of the 99 season provide almost as a series of independent trenches with little attempt at synthesis. Having said that we pay tribute to his resourcefulness in getting the excavation underway with minimal finances and excavating under very difficult conditions. There will come a time, however, when his work will have to be re-evaluated properly and the pottery from the various features looked at again. The work of Southern Archaeology was undertaken on several sites a little further to the east. However, it would not be surprising