

THE ROMAN VILLA AT 'SPES BONA', LANGSTONE AVENUE, LANGSTONE, HAVANT

by OLIVER J GILKES

with contributions by MALCOLM LYNE, TONY HURLEY, ROBERT FOOT, NICKI KING and LINDSAY FORD

ABSTRACT

A Roman building has been known in Langstone Avenue, Havant, since the first decade of this century. In the 1920's, the owner of the house known as 'Spes Bona' undertook excavations in his garden, uncovering a sequence of Roman buildings including a small bath suite of the 'utility' type. In 1967 the site was sold for redevelopment and excavations on behalf of the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works were undertaken by Margaret Rule. A building sequence beginning in the mid-late 1st century AD and continuing into the 4th century was examined. This report is the first attempt to bring together the surviving records and finds.

THE SITE

The Roman villa in Langstone Avenue (SU 719 054) was first identified some 80 years ago. For a time the site was quite well publicised and the finds were referred to as parallels for other sites (Burstow & Wilson 1939, 73). The excavations were visited by some of the leading regional archaeologists of the time, such as Herbert Toms, sometime assistant to General Pitt-Rivers and Curator of Brighton Museum, who visited in 1926, and J P Williams-Freeman in 1928. Despite the apparent notoriety of the discovery no full account of the site has ever been made. The villa has more than merely a local significance, possibly being a further example of the series of early villas to be found particularly along the Sussex coastal plain.

The house known as 'Spes Bona' (4 Langstone Avenue) was constructed, together with its neighbours, during the first decade of the 20th century, as part of a southern expansion of the town of Havant (Fig. 1). During construction work in the vicinity of Langstone Avenue large quantities of

building debris were found which was re-used as hard core by local builders. Archaeological interest in these discoveries was discouraged and as a consequence twenty or so years were to pass before any further investigations occurred. By 1913, number 4 Langstone Avenue had come into the hands of Mr Owen Adames, a local borough surveyor, who over the following ten years laid out an orchard in the garden to the rear of his house (Fig. 2). The presence of a mass of building rubble and wall foundations caused continual problems and prevented Adames' efforts to grow fruit trees. Consequently, he arranged for the removal of several cartloads of masonry rubble in the time-honoured way by selling them to a local

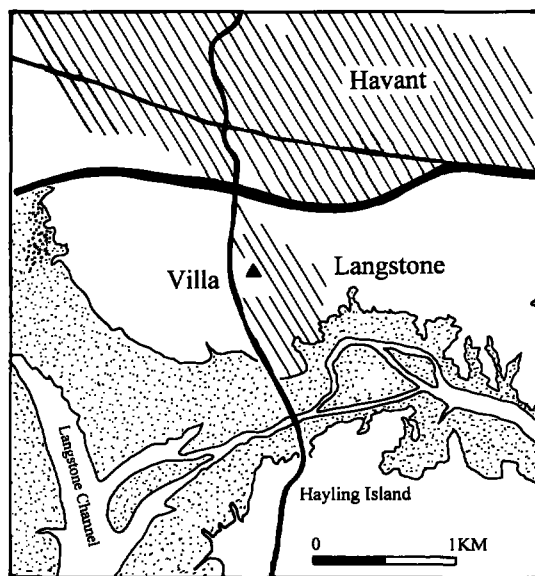


Fig. 1 Langstone Avenue: location of the villa

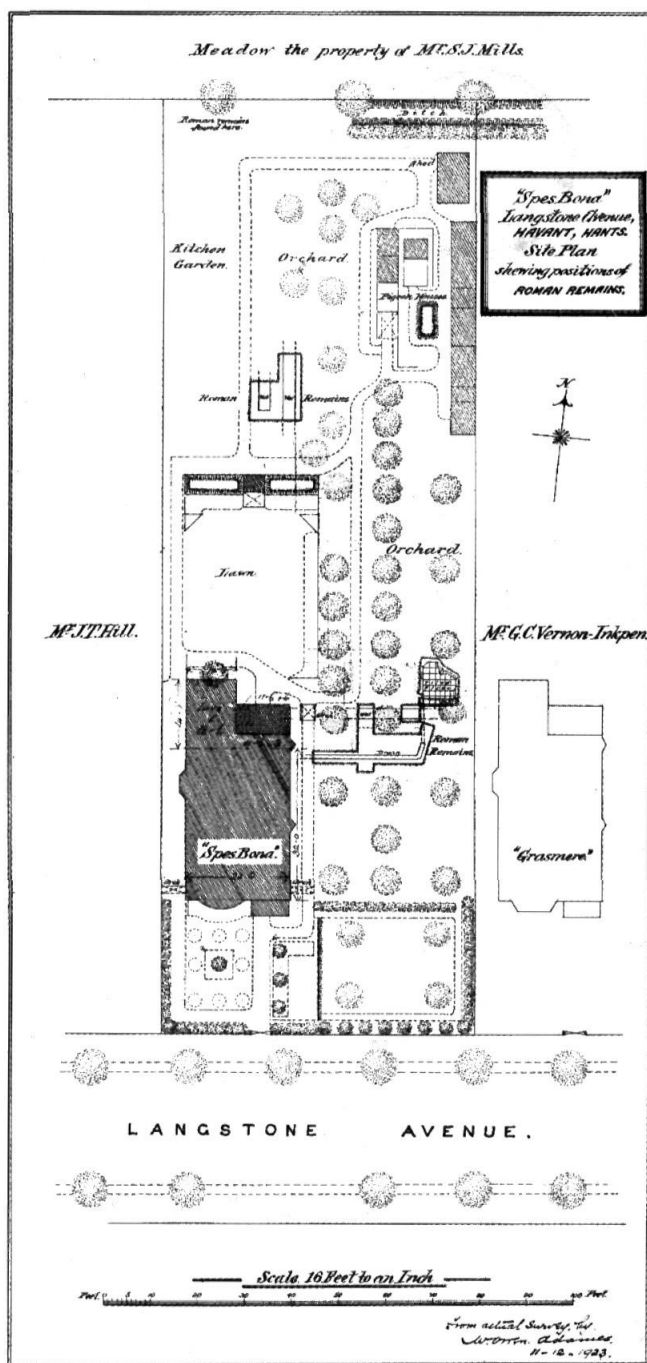


Fig. 2 Langstone avenue: Owen Adames's plan of the garden of 'Spes Bona'

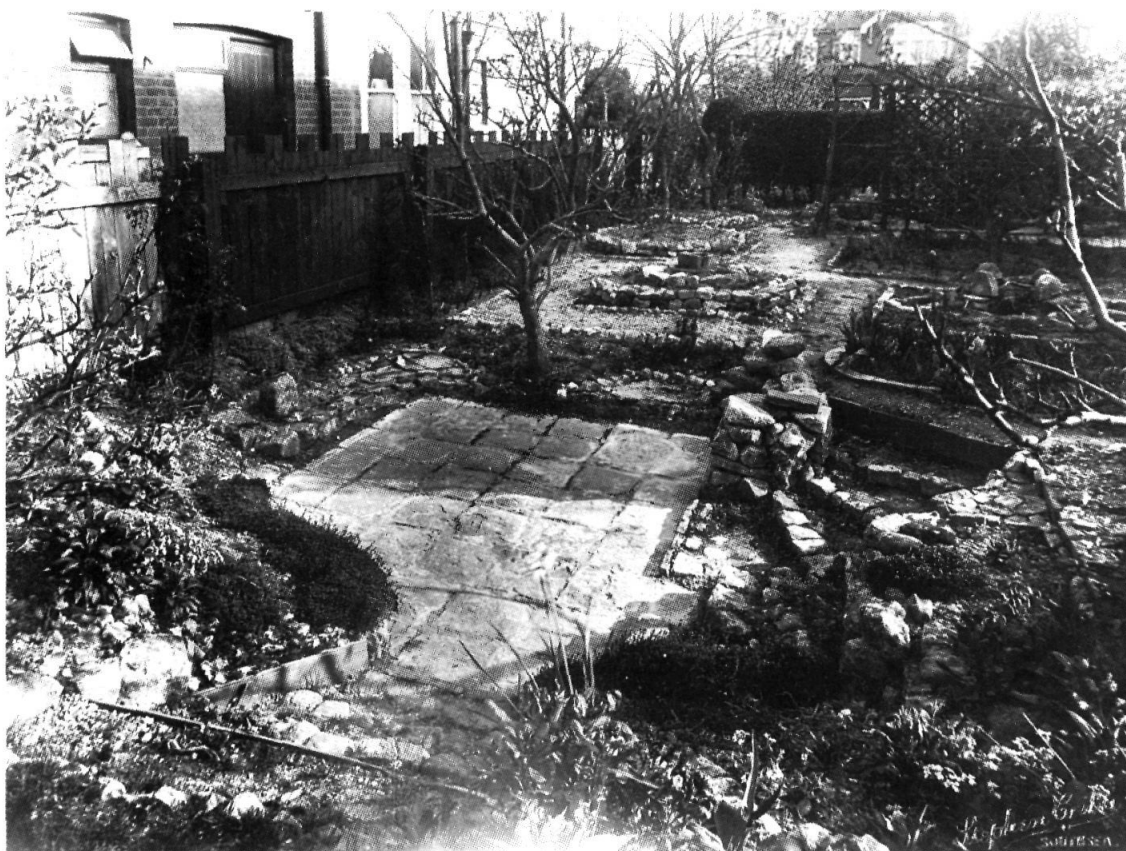


Fig. 3 Langstone Avenue: the 'Romanised' Garden with the tiled plunge-bath patio in the foreground.

builder (A J Gedge, letter in Roman Britain archive, Ashmolean Library, Oxford).

Another Havant resident, Mr A J Gedge, a local amateur archaeologist, had discovered a quantity of tesserae in a garden neighbouring number 4 and encouraged Adames to explore for further remains on his own property. Adames soon became an enthusiastic archaeologist and set to with a will. He was rewarded with the discovery of a whole series of walls, floors and a small bath suite, which were obviously part of a substantial Roman building.

Despite his early encouragement Gedge became alarmed when Adames incorporated the remains of the Roman buildings into the design of his garden (Fig. 3). The tiled floor of the cold plunge bath made a convenient patio, and various tiles and ashlar blocks were used to decorate the flower

beds, whilst the garden paths were paved with crushed *opus signinum*. This initiative did not meet with Gedge's approval and he wrote to Miss M V Taylor:

'It is however, truly harrowing to see beautiful tiles reduced to part and destruction to construct an indescribably vulgar rockery, and to provide boulders for the house Adames.' (A J Gedge, letter in Roman Britain archive, Ashmolean Library, Oxford)

The 'archaeo-horticultural' efforts of Owen Adames do not stand alone. There is a tradition of English garden design which incorporates, where possible, archaeological elements in the overall scheme. A further example is provided by the house

built by Arthur Mee, the author of the *King's England* series of topographic books, at Eynsford in Kent. Mee utilised Roman brick and tiles as well as a complete *opus signinum* bath pavement from Darenth villa as features of his garden (Anon 1996).

'Spes Bona' remained in the hands of the Adames family until 1968 when the house and its garden were sold for re-development. Building work immediately to the west in 1964 had revealed wall footings and other remains. In 1967 Mrs (now Dr) Margaret Rule was approached by the then Ministry of Public Buildings and Works to undertake a rescue excavation prior to the redevelopment of the area. A note on these excavations appears below. The house is still standing, but the garden is now occupied by a number of new bungalows and garages.

The excavations of 1923–25

At the time of Owen Adames's investigations, the plot belonging to 'Spes Bona' was 190' long by 70' in width (58 × 21 m). The south-western area was occupied by the house, north of which was a lawn and kitchen garden. Virtually the whole of the eastern side of the garden was occupied by an orchard, which was the direct cause of the discoveries (Fig. 2). The sequence in which the components of the villa were uncovered is somewhat confused, and it is not entirely clear that all the walls plotted by Adames were traced as accurately as his plan (Fig. 4) seems to suggest.

The initial discoveries were made below the orchard with the uncovering of a small cold plunge bath and drain (Figs 4–6). The bath was of polygonal plan with a floor paved with *pedales* founded on a bed of mortar some 6" (15 cm) deep. The walls were constructed of courses of mortared tiles. A quarter-round moulding of *opus signinum* ran around the bath at the junction of walls and floor, except for the area where the south-western wall was interrupted by the drain. The lining appears to have been carried up the sides of the bath to provide a watertight seal.

The plunge bath had been used as a rubbish tip in the latest phase of its existence. Adames apparently found quantities of wall plaster, pottery, and domestic debris within the fill.

On the south-western side of the bath was the

opening for a drain. This ran southwards for 9' (2.75 m) before turning west. Its course was traced for a further 23' (7 m) westwards, running along the southern side of the building (Fig. 4). At the point where it exited from the plunge bath the sides of the drain were plastered, and for the whole of its passage through the wall it was of similar construction. Once outside the bath suite the drain was constructed with tiles. The base was made of *tegulae* and smaller tiles, probably *bessales*, were fitted close up against the inside of the flanges to form the sides. Further tile may originally have been used to cap the drain.

To the west of the cold plunge bath Adames found a heated bath. An apsidal-ended heated room some 16' (4.90 m) north-south and 10' (3.05 m) east-west, was completely cleared (Figs 4 and 5–6). This facility was obviously one of a pair with the second bath, which was not excavated, lying to the east. Others may have existed further west as there is no indication of a western wall to the excavated room on any of the surviving photographs, despite being shown on Adames's plan (Fig. 4). Indeed the western side of the apse had been substantially robbed and it is possible that any walls on this side of the room had been destroyed. In the area of the apse the walls seem to have had mortared flint foundations surmounted by a tile course, with at least one course of ashlar or chalk blocks above forming an offset.

The floor had been destroyed, but it could be seen that was originally supported on 25 stacks of tiles (Figs 4 and 5). As excavated these consisted of 5 *bessales* resting upon a single *lydion*. In the north-western corner of the main room were two large stacks of tiles the northern of which appears to have been corbelled towards the southern (photograph in Portsmouth City Museum, 8200). This may indicate the presence of a flue from the *praeefurnium*. Alternatively, this may have been one of a series of such tile stacks supporting a dividing wall at floor level. There is no indication on any plan or photograph of the existence of an arch in the eastern wall of the excavated room that would connect it with the neighbouring apsidal-ended chamber. Either this had been blocked, or heating was provided to this eastern room from another source.

The apse probably contained a heated plunge bath as its sub-floor was slightly raised. This sug-

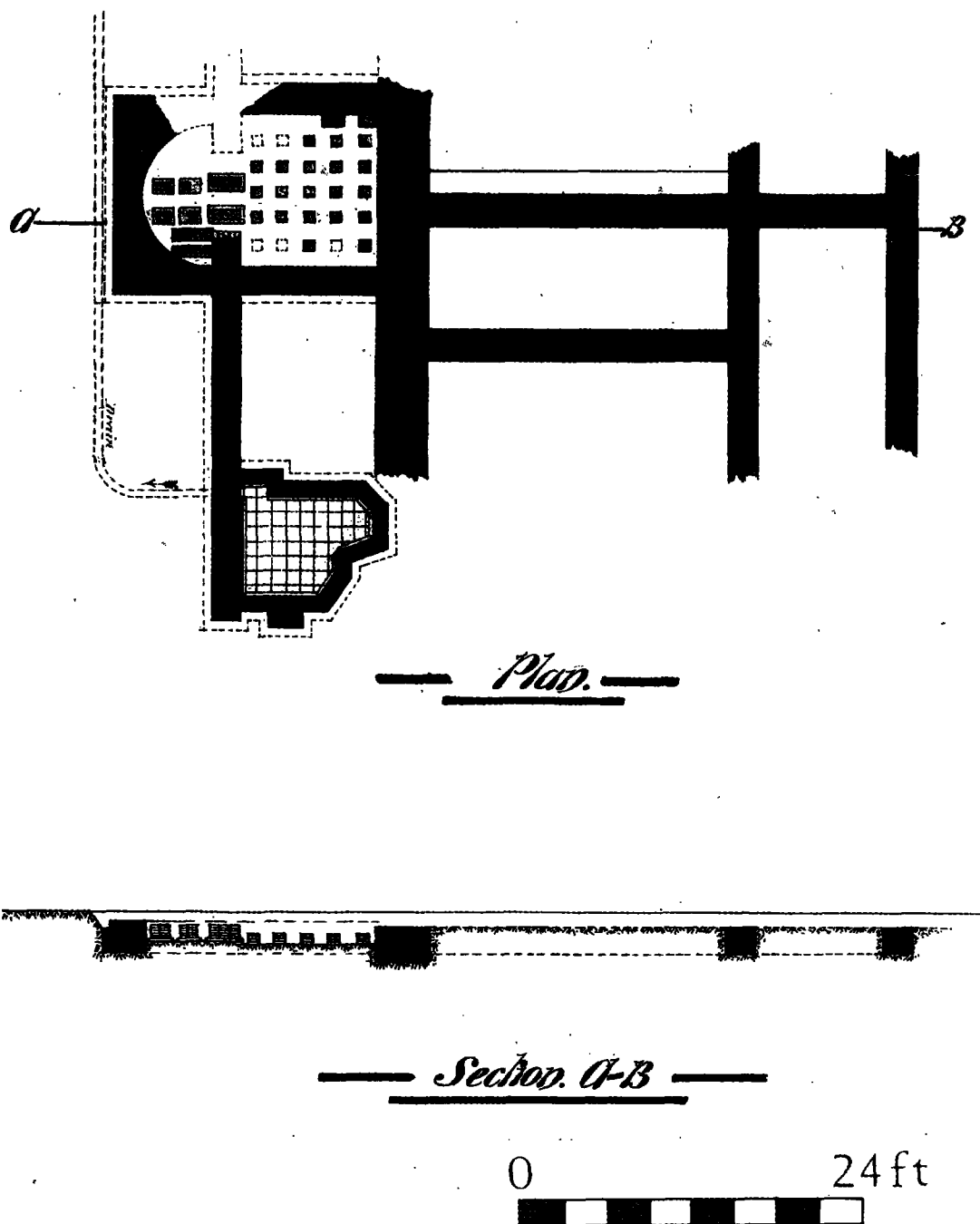


Fig. 4 Langstone Avenue: plan and section of the bath suite excavated by Owen Adames



Fig. 5 Langstone Avenue: the apsidal-ended plunge bath with Owen Adames and his daughters

gests that the bath itself was quite shallow, probably with steps leading up from the main room. The floor was again absent, but the tile stacks were largely intact. Between the main room and the plunge bath the floor was supported on 6 stacks each of 6 *bessales*, each group being placed on 2 *tydiones*. In the centre of the plunge bath were a further 4 stacks, three of these consisted of stacks of 6 *bessales*, one a double stack, placed on *tydiones* and in two cases *tegulae*. The remaining stacks in the plunge bath are of highly unusual construction. A series of what appear to be a form of 'half box' flue tiles were placed on their sides on a series of *bessales*, and topped by similar tiles (Figs 5–6). This arrangement is certainly unusual, and to this

writers knowledge unique. Like the cold plunge bath to the east, the heated room and bath excavated by Adames seems to have been utilised as a dump for domestic rubbish and building debris after the removal of the floor.

To the north of the bath suite a series of north-south and east-west walls were uncovered, forming a range of rooms (Fig. 4). It is not entirely clear how accurately these walls were recorded, or whether any distinction was made between different phases of construction. Certainly, photographs in Portsmouth Museum suggest that Adames's rather haphazard methodology may have resulted in certain features being missed or misinterpreted. No floor levels appear to have been found, al-

— Harant's Roman Villa. —
— Plan & Sections of remains of Hypocaust discovered. —

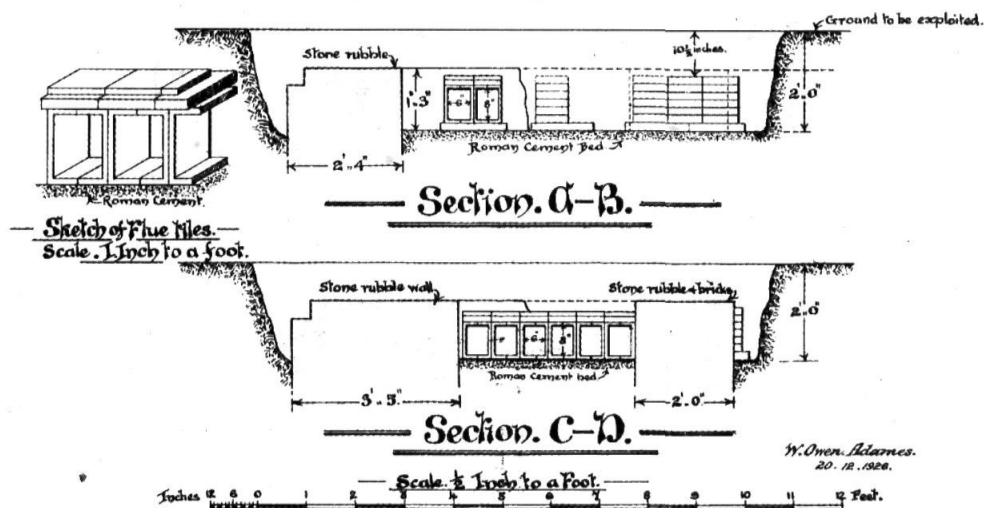
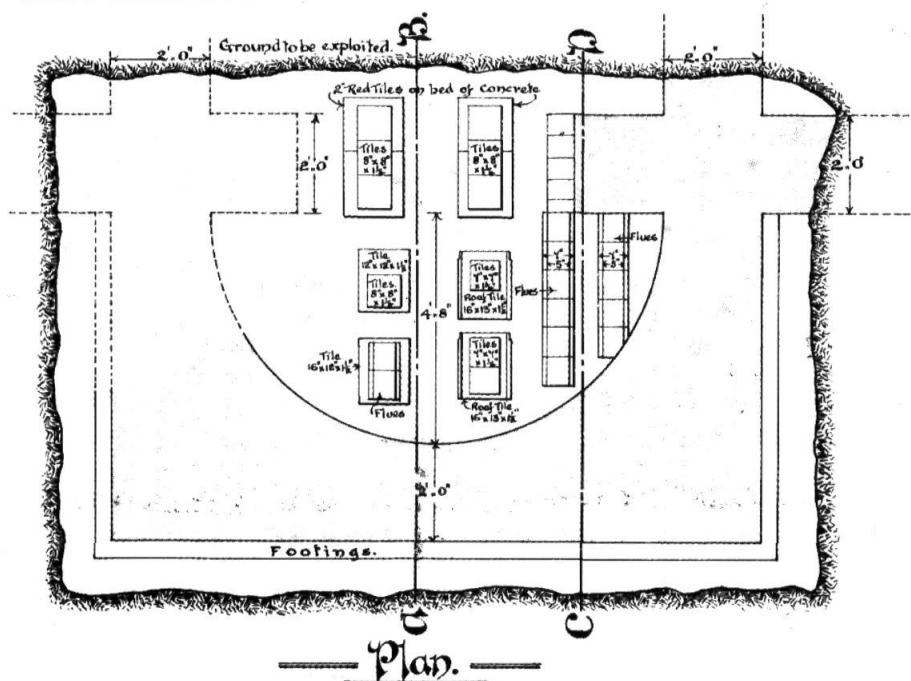


Fig. 6 Langstone Avenue: Owen Adames' detailed plan and section of the plunge bath

though tessellated and mosaic floors obviously once existed (Fig. 11), and it is probable that these had been destroyed by earlier activity.

As interpreted by Adames, the two large rooms immediately to the north of the apsed room were separated by a short north-south corridor. To the north of these there was an east-west corridor. This itself appears to have been divided by a continuation of the western wall of the north-south corridor (Fig. 4). It is possible that the western wall of the short corridor may have represented an earlier phase of building, and possibly even a different structure. However, this would still have left a range of rooms to the north of the baths fronted by a corridor. Two further parallel north-south walls were uncovered to the north of the lawn (Fig. 2) and Adames reported that a series of walls could be seen as parch marks on the lawn itself, and in the meadow to the north of the garden. Contemporary interpretation of the structures uncovered suggested that the remains formed part of a courtyard villa facing northwards with eastern and western wings (Warren 1931, 286).

The 1967 excavations

In the absence of full records, this account of the 1967 excavations is based on a summary account and notes in Portsmouth City Museum. Building work in Langstone Avenue during 1964 immediately to the west of the garden of 'Spes Bona', revealed wall foundations and Roman pottery. Further development, projected for 1967, threatened the structures actually within the garden. Consequently the then Ministry of Public Buildings and Works requested Mrs (now Dr) Margaret Rule to carry out a rescue excavation in advance of construction. The excavation took place during November over two weeks. The weather conditions were exceptionally adverse. Eight trenches were dug with the aim of clarifying as much of the plan of the building as was possible in the allotted time. Two main periods of construction were identified (Fig. 7).

Period 1

In the late 1st century AD the western half of the site was occupied by a building with trench-built walls of flint and rammed chalk. It seemed prob-

able to the excavator that the structure had had a wooden superstructure. It was not possible to determine the overall plan of the building as much of the structure appeared to lie under the property to the west. However, it was obvious that some of the walls found by Owen Adames, such as that running north from the bath suite which divided the room and corridor to the north, belonged to this early phase, rather than to the later structure with the bath suite.

In the 3rd century the phase 1 building was demolished and the walls were at least partly robbed. The site seems to have lain unused for a time before construction of the phase 2 complex was begun.

Period 2

In the early-mid 3rd century, two masonry buildings were constructed on the same alignment as the Period 1 structures, separated by an alleyway or corridor 6'6" (2 m) in width. The western building was represented only by a north-south wall of mortared flint with a westerly return at its northern end. To the east of the alley a further structure was investigated. This had a courtyard at its centre surrounded by a corridor. The southern range consisted of the suite of baths already investigated by Owen Adames. This was further explored confirming that the western wall of the heated room was absent. To the east of this room the apse of the eastern plunge bath was re-exposed. To the north of the courtyard it is possible that a further series of rooms may have existed. A large portion of the site was obviously uninvestigated lying under the garden to the east. This complex was apparently demolished in the 4th century.

THE POTTERY by Malcolm Lyne

Introduction

There are eight boxes of pottery from Owen Adames's excavations at Spes Bona in Portsmouth Museum store. A further 75 bags of pottery from the 1967 excavations are split between Fishbourne and Portsmouth museums.

The surviving pre-war excavation pottery is totally unstratified and clearly a selection of what

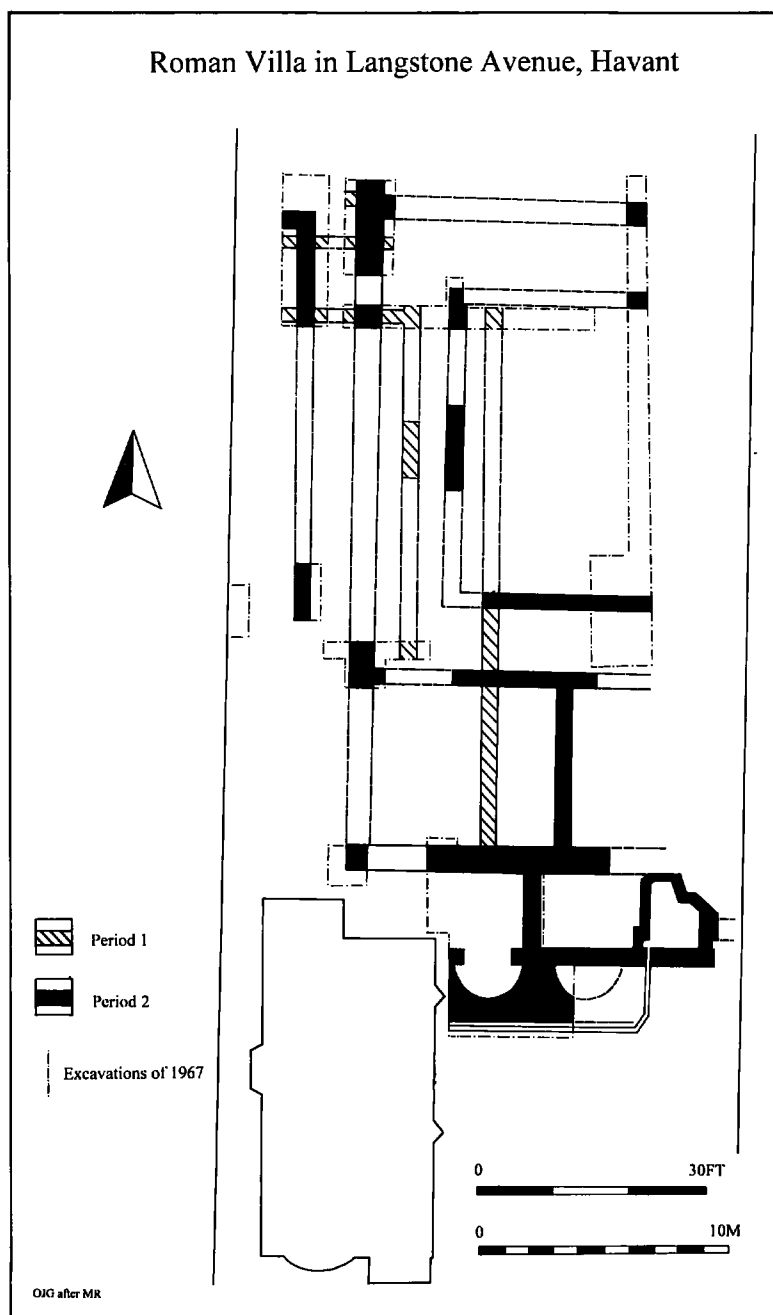


Fig. 7 Langstone Avenue: overall plan of the excavations (Margaret Rule)

was originally found. The sherds consist very largely of rim fragments and decorated pieces. Samian pottery is absent, although it is known that some was found at the time (Owen Adames 1927). The pottery from the 1967 excavations seems to be far less selective and includes body-sherds. It is known, however, that some of the excavated pottery is now missing.

Methodology

The selective nature of the pottery from the pre-war excavations and the small assemblages from that of 1967 preclude meaningful quantification by fabric weight or numbers of sherds. Quantification by estimated vessel equivalents based on sherds as percentages of pot rims is only marginally less unreliable but, as a policy of retaining most rim sherds seems to have been followed, does give a rough guide to the pattern of pottery supply to the villa.

A Langstone fabric series has been created and a selection of drawn pieces described under their relevant fabric headings. Because of the unstratified nature of the pottery only a few of the more interesting sherds have been drawn or referred to per fabric, with the exception of local Rowlands Castle products. No corpus of the full range of Rowlands Castle industry pottery forms has ever been published and, because of this and the proximity of the kilns to the site, a wide range of Langstone vessels from this source is drawn here. The unstratified nature of the pre-war material does, however, mean that it cannot be used for dating the Rowlands Castle forms. Any such dating has been arrived at by analogy with similar types from better-recorded local excavations. The Fishbourne Palace excavation produced large quantities of Rowlands Castle ware, including examples of all the common types (Cunliffe 1971). Fishbourne type series numbers are quoted against drawn equivalents from Langstone.

The Fabrics and Forms

Coarse wares

C.1 Iron Age flint-gritted wares. This fabric subdivision is represented by only five sherds, which can

be subdivided into four pieces with up-to 1.50 mm calcined flint filler and one with a mixture of very-fine quartz and up-to 1.50 mm flint. All of the sherds come from the 1967 excavations and can either be regarded as strays from a nearby Iron Age occupation site or representing the continued circulation of such wares during the earliest years of the Roman occupation at the Langstone villa. There is insufficient material with which to argue for Late Iron Age occupation on the site itself.

C.2 Black, soot-soaked fabric with profuse, sub-angular up-to 0.30 mm quartz sand filler. Vessels in this fabric are mainly handmade or tournette-finished. This is the main 'Atrebatian Overlap' fabric encountered at Fishbourne (Down 1996, Fig. 6-17), Chichester (Down 1989, 151, Fig. 21-1), North Bersted and elsewhere in West Sussex and is represented at Langstone by the following types, most of which are from the 1967 excavation of the 1st-century building:

Fig. 8.1 Handmade dish with beaded rim. External rim diameter 140 mm.

Fig. 8.2 Handmade necked bowl. Ext. rim diameter 220 mm. Fishbourne Type 84 dated c. AD 43-70+. SB 67/6(1).

Fig. 8.3 Handmade everted-rim jar. Ext. rim diameter 180 mm. Fishbourne Type 161. SB 67/9 (7).

Fig. 8.4 Handmade bead-rim jar. Ext. rim diameter 140 mm. Fishbourne Type 166. SB 67/7 (5).

Fig. 8.5 Handmade bead-rim jar with polished surfaces. Ext. rim diameter 110 mm.

C.3 Rowlands Castle wares. The Rowlands Castle kiln sites are situated only 8 km north of Havant and the bulk of them are believed to be in permanent grassland centred on SU 735 010. One waste-dump site was, however, excavated by M Rule in 1967 but the large amounts of pottery retrieved remain unpublished. Rowlands Castle wares are totally dominant in the nearby Langstone villa assemblage, accounting for more than 75% of all the extant pottery from the site. Three fabric variants can be discerned:

A. Patchy buff to grey fabric with profuse fine quartz sand filler accompanied by sparse to moderate very coarse black and brown ironstone and angular calcined flint. This coarse Rowlands Castle fabric variant was almost entirely used for

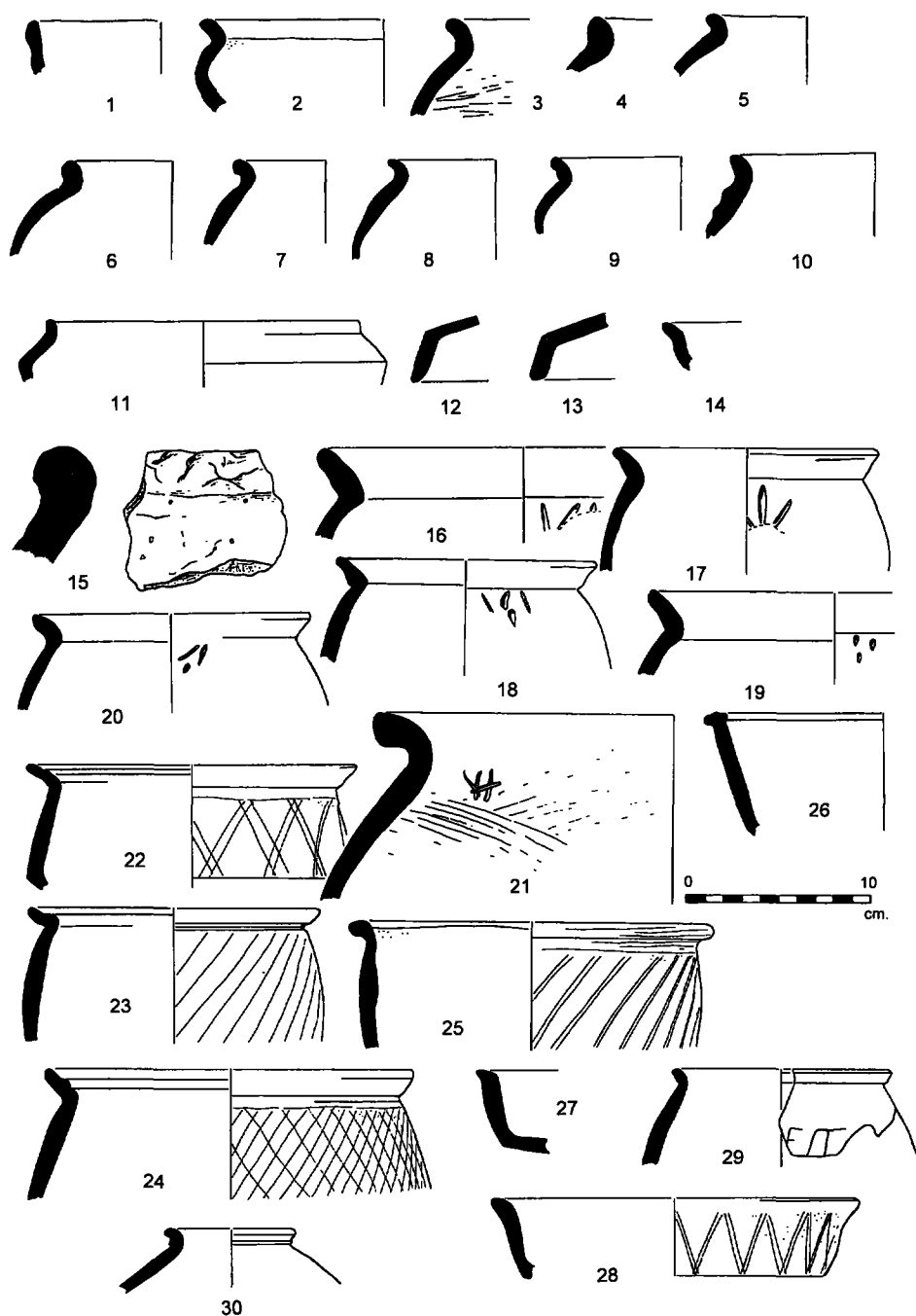


Fig. 8 Langstone Avenue: pottery, numbers 1-28

large handmade storage vessels, although there are one or two early cooking-pots in the fabric as well.

B. Similar but high-fired fabric without the flint inclusions and having profuse fine quartz filler with sparse up to 1.00 mm ferrous and calcite inclusions. The fabric feels hackly on the break and is generally fired buff to medium grey, although surface blackened vessels form a significant element of 1st and 2nd century production. White to reddish-brown horizontal streaks are sometimes present in a thin discontinuous surface slip on the exterior surfaces of vessels. Nearly all of the vessels in this fabric are wheel-turned, but some lids are handmade.

C. Soft low-temperature fired version of C.3B, fired buff-to-grey and black with sparse up-to 2.00 mm black ferrous inclusions. Some sherds have crushed calcite as well and there are both handmade and wheel-turned vessels. This fabric is similar to that of some late-1st to that of some late-1st and 2nd-century Shedfield kiln products but is 4th-century in date and found in small quantities on all of the excavated Chilgrove villa sites, in Chichester and at the Langstone villa. A Rowlands Castle origin remains unproven, but the inclusions and distribution of finds makes such an origin likely.

The late-1st-century Rowlands Castle type pottery from Langstone includes:

Fig. 8.6 Bead-rimmed jar fired grey. Ext. rim diameter 120 mm. Fishbourne Type 166.

Fig. 8.7 Necked jar fired grey. Ext. rim diameter 100 mm. Fishbourne Type 161.

Fig. 8.8 Necked jar fired grey. Ext. rim diameter 120 mm. Fishbourne Type 161.

Fig. 8.9 Carinated and necked bowl. Ext. rim diameter 140 mm. Fishbourne Type 84 dated *c.* AD 43–70.

Fig. 8.10 Carinated and necked bowl with corrugated shoulder. Ext. rim diameter 160 mm. Fishbourne Type 221 dated *c.* AD 70–100.

Fig. 8.11 Carinated and bead-rimmed bowl similar to contemporary Durotrigian and Vectis ware forms (Brown 1987, Ill.177, BD5.3; Tomalin 1987, Form 7). Ext. rim diameter 140 mm.

Fig. 8.12 Copy of CAM 5/6 Gallo-Belgic platter in fine blue-grey Rowlands Castle fabric. Ext. rim diameter 140 mm. Fishbourne Type 15–2 dated *c.* AD 43–70+.

Fig. 8.13 Another variant of the same type. ?Ext. rim diameter. SB 67/7 (5)

Fig. 8.14 Another similar, with polished black surfaces on red margins. SB 67/7 (16)

Fig. 8.15 Rim fragment from large handmade store jar in Fabric 3A. The early Rowlands Castle ware from Langstone also includes fragments from three pitchers of Fishbourne Type 131.

Late 2nd- and 3rd-century Rowlands Castle cooking-pots dominate the Langstone villa assemblage. They are characterised by stiff, stubby everted rims and the occasional presence of 'batch-marks' scored on the shoulder before firing.

Fig. 8.16 Everted rim cooking-pot with part of 'batch mark' on its shoulder. Ext. rim diameter 200 mm.

Fig. 8.17 Another example with a broad-arrow type 'batch mark'. Ext. rim diameter 140 mm.

Fig. 8.18 Another similar vessel. Ext. rim diameter 140 mm.

Fig. 8.19 Another vessel with triple-stabbed 'batch mark'. Ext. rim diameter 200 mm.

Fig. 8.20 Another vessel with a 'batch mark'. Ext. rim diameter 160 mm.

Fig. 8.21 Large jar in sparse-flint-gritted Fabric 3A with a 'batch mark' or monogram on the interior surface of the neck. Ext. rim diameter 320 mm.

There are small fragments from two other 'batchmarks' in the collection, making a total of eight altogether on an EVES equivalent of 45 vessels. It seems likely from this that only a fraction of the cooking-pots produced were so marked. These marks do not seem to relate to the capacity of vessels but are more likely to be individual potters' signatures or indicate the workshops from which the vessels came. The only other form on which 'batchmarks' occasionally appear is the lid.

The main 2nd-century bowl type is a carinated form with plain everted or reeded rim. This form was widely produced at other Romano-British potteries between the 1st and 3rd centuries and in particular by the Verulamium kilns (Frere 1984, Fig. 102).

Fig. 8.22 Reeded rim bowl with burnished chevrons on the body. Ext. rim diameter 180 mm. Fishbourne Type 209.

Fig. 8.23 Lid-seated bowl with burnished diagonal lines on the body. Ext. rim diameter 160 mm. Fishbourne Type 210.

Fig. 8.24 Reeded rim bowl with burnished acute laticing on the body. Ext. rim diameter 180 mm.

Fig. 8.25 Bead rim bowl with diagonal burnished lines on the body. Ext. rim diameter 220 mm.

Fig. 8.26 Reeded rim bowl of Fishbourne Type 205, dated late-1st to early-2nd century. Ext. rim diameter 180 mm.

Second-century dish forms tend to have horizontally flattened and slightly flanged rims. There may be some form influence from contemporary BB1 dishes with more developed flanges (Sunter 1987, Fig. 12, 372).

Fig. 8.27 Plain flanged dish of Fishbourne Type 203.

Fig. 8.28 Similar dish with burnished chevrons on the exterior. Ext. rim diameter 200 mm. Fishbourne Type 204.

There is also a rim sherd from a very large dish in an extremely coarse version of Fabric C.3A.

The standard late-1st/early-2nd-century beaker type is bag-shaped with either a beaded or stubby everted rim.

Fig. 9.29 Beaker rim with [FTT] graffito. Ext. rim diameter 120 mm. Fishbourne Type 324.

Fig. 9.30 Similar vessel but with corniced rim. Ext. rim diameter 80 mm.

Fig. 9.31 Bead-rim beaker in brown fabric C.3C. Ext. rim diameter 100 mm.

Rope-rimmed grey store-jars were made by the industry during the late-2nd and 3rd centuries and developed from earlier crude everted-rim forms fired in bonfires and in coarser fabric.

Fig. 9.32 Rope-rim from store-jar in grey Fabric C3A.

Simple lids without rim edge beading are the most common Rowlands Castle ware form and are usually handmade. Several of the Rowlands Castle cooking-pots used as cinerary urns in the St. Pancras cemetery at Chichester had lids of this type.

Fig. 9.33 Handmade lid with knife-trimmed edge. Ext. rim diameter 180 mm.

Cooking-pots of late-2nd/early-3rd century type continued being made into the late-3rd century. Early-4th-century examples tend to have more everted and thinner rims, sometimes with vertical rim edge flattening. Vessels of this type are absent from the Langstone material, suggesting that very little pottery from the site is later than AD 300.

There is, however, a group of developed beaded-and-flanged bowls from the Langstone villa which are difficult to parallel elsewhere. What parallels that there are suggest a date towards the end of the 4th century.

Fig. 9.34 Convex-sided bowl with exterior knife trimming on the lower part of the body. Ext. rim diameter 180 mm.

Fig. 9.35 Another such bowl. Ext. rim diameter 120 mm.

Fig. 9.36 Bowl with internal groove on the bead. Ext. rim diameter 160 mm. There is a handmade version from the early-5th-century Context 175 at the Chilgrove Batten Hanger villa.

There are also three handmade developed-beaded-and-flanged bowls in Fabric C.3B.

Fig. 9.37 Bowl with ill-defined junction between the drooping flange and bead. ?Ext. rim diameter.

Fig. 9.38 Bowl with short, hooked flange. ?Ext. rim diameter. This particular form is paralleled in late-4th to early-5th century contexts at Chilgrove Well Meadow Field villa (E1.(2), Batten Hanger villa and Chichester Cattle Market (Layer 216 over the late-4th-century fill of Well 3). The bowl from Chilgrove Well Meadow Field is, however, in Fabric C.3C, although clearly by the same hand as the example from the Langstone villa.

Three straight-sided dishes of BB1 type, but in Rowlands Castle fabric are also probably later than 270 in date.

Fig. 9.39 Dish with knife-trimming on the rim edge. Ext. rim diameter 260 mm.

C.4 Sandy grey ware with profuse up-to 1.00 mm hard black subangular ironstone and colourless quartz. Hardham grey-ware (Winbolt 1927).

The Langstone villa lies close to the western limit of the distribution zone for these wares, but there are a handful of 1st to 3rd century sherds present, of which the following are the most significant:

Fig. 9.40 Copy of pre-Flavian CAM 8 Gallo-Belgic platter. Ext. rim diameter 220 mm.

Fig. 9.41 Everted rim beaker. Ext. rim diameter 60 mm.

C.5 Coarse-gritted oxidised orange fabric with profuse iron-stained up-to 2.00 mm quartz and

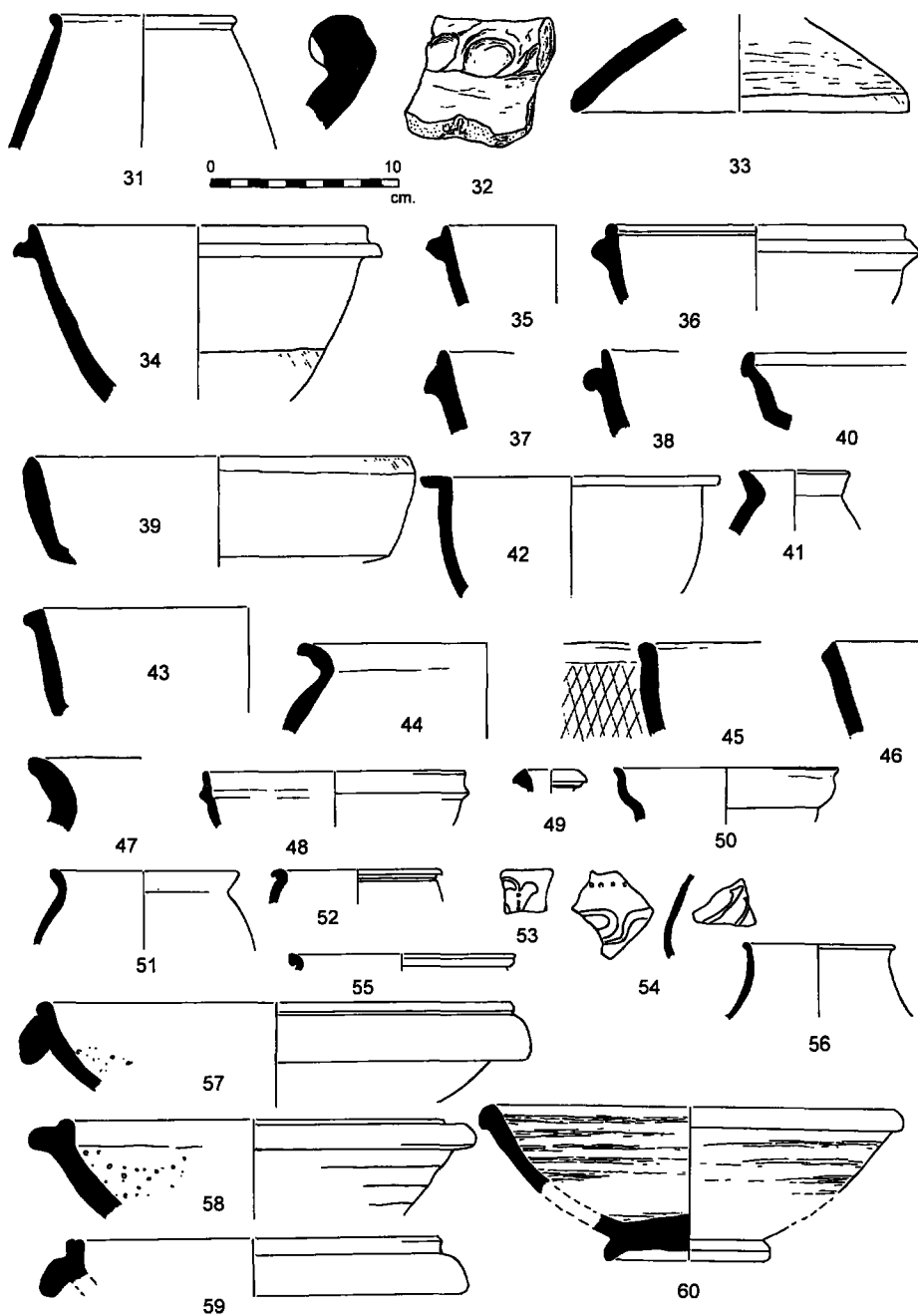


Fig. 9 Langstone Avenue: pottery, numbers 29-60

ironstone filler. Vessels in this fabric are well-represented in the earliest levels at Fishbourne Palace and are mainly deep hemispherical bowls with flat or reeded rims. Two examples of such bowls are present at the Langstone villa site and like the Fishbourne examples are probably Continental imports. Both examples came from the area of the 1st-century building dug in 1967.

Fig. 9.42 Bowl with knife-trimmed plain rim. Ext. rim diameter 140 mm. Fishbourne Type 86 dated Neronian/Flavian. SB67/7(12).

C.6 Smooth sand-free grey ware. This fabric is represented by three dishes, which are probably pre-Flavian Continental imports.

Fig. 9.43 Bead-rimmed dish. Ext. rim diameter 240 mm.

C.7 Handmade fabric with profuse white quartz sand filler and sparse coarse shale and calcite inclusions. The occasional chert and ironstone inclusion is also present and the fabric is fired black, sometimes with buff-to-brown margins. Dorset BB1 (Farrar 1973). Coastal trade took place eastwards from the production sites around Poole Harbour during the 2nd to 4th centuries (Lyne 1994) and appreciable quantities of both late-2nd and 3rd-century forms are present in the Langstone material.

There is no totally satisfactory published corpus of BB1 forms from production sites or sites in the Durotrigian heartland. The corpora constructed for the Worgret kiln site (Hearne 1991) and Greyhound Yard, Dorchester (Seager Smith & Davies 1993) suffer from fundamental mis-datings of cooking-pot types and the lumping together of diverse bowl and dish forms. The Ower production site corpus is better but also combines different forms under single headings (Woodward 1987). The most detailed and reliable published corpus is still that by Gillam (1976), despite a lack of pre-120 and post 370 forms and dates based on periods of supply to the Midlands and North of Britain. The following Gillam forms are present at Langstone with date ranges adjusted to take into account recent research:

Cooking-pots. Forms 6 (c. 120–180), 8 (4)(c. 240–280), 16 (c. 140–220)

Beakers. Form 24 (c. 150–300+)

Bowls. Forms 34 (3) (c. 125–180), 36 (2)(c. 150–160), 38 (c. 140–220), 42 (c. 180–250), 44 (c. 220–280), 46 (240–370+), 48 (c. 240–370+)

Flanged-dishes. Forms 56 (c. 125–160), 57 (c. 125–165), 58 (c. 125–160), 66 (c. 150–200), 67 (c. 220–280)

Straight-sided dishes. Form 77 (7) (c. 180–300+), 80 (c. 250–300+)

C.8 Vectis ware. Handmade fabric with fine black morion, honey and white quartz filler and flecks of shell. The fabric tends to be grey to grey-brown fired darker grey with reddish-brown margins giving a brownish colour to the very thin and patchy terminal reduction (Tomalin 1987). These Vectenian native wares are not found on the mainland in any quantity and what little there is largely confined to coastal sites opposite the Island and tends to be of 3rd-century date. There are more pieces from the Langstone villa than from most other sites and these include the following:

Fig. 9.44 Everted rim cooking-pot fired brown with black patches. Ext. rim diameter 140 mm. Tomalin Form 14, dated to the late-3rd and early-4th centuries. One of at least 8 examples.

Fig. 9.45 Very large bead-rimmed dish with burnished acute laticing. Ext. rim diameter 300 mm.

C.9 Highgate Wood Fabric C etc. Very-fine-quartz-sanded grey ware. Three developed poppy-head beaker rims of early-2nd-century type are present in the Langstone villa pottery assemblage, one of which has external white slip in the manner of Highgate Wood Fabric C examples (Davies *et al.* 1994). The other two examples lack the external white slip and could be Thameside products.

C.10 Verulamium Region Whiteware. There is a mortarium rim of Frere's Type 2658 (c. AD 100–140) in the assemblage.

C.11 Thameside grey ware (Monaghan 1987). There are two pie-dish rims of Type 5C.3 (Ibid. c. AD 150/170–250)

C.12 New Forest grey-ware (Fulford 1975A). There was large-scale coastal traffic in such wares eastwards as far as Chichester during the late-3rd

and early-4th centuries, apparently driven by trade in colour-coated beakers and other fineware forms from the same kilns. The small amounts present at Langstone comprise a cavetto-rim cooking-pot, two straight-sided dishes and three developed-beaded-and-flanged bowls.

C.13 Alice Holt grey-ware (Lyne & Jefferies 1979). A rim fragment from a type 5E.1 large reeded-rim bowl of early-3rd-century date probably arrived during a temporary expansion of the Alice Holt pottery marketing zone into southern Hampshire before the rise of the New Forest industry. Two other fragments are of 4th-century date and comprise a dish rim of Type 6A-8 and:

Fig. 9.46 Very late variant of flanged-dish type 6C.2 (c. 350-420) with internal black slip extending over the flange. ?Ext. rim diameter.

C.14 Overwey/Portchester D fabric (Lyne & Jefferies 1979; Fulford 1975b). There is one hooked jar rim and a two horizontally-ribbed body-sherds of c. 330-420 date from the Langstone villa. Wares in this fabric appear and Alice Holt grey wares reappear in late-4th-century pottery assemblages from Winchester and sites in south-east Hampshire, replacing New Forest grey-wares as that industry went into terminal decline.

C.15 Hampshire Grog-tempered ware (Lyne 1994). Handmade vessels in this somewhat variable fabric or group of fabrics appeared in Southern Hampshire during the third quarter of the 3rd century but remained a minor constituent of pottery assemblages until after AD 350. There are a mere two jar fragments among the Langstone villa pottery, which include:

Fig. 9.47 Rim fragment from large jar in soft black fabric with profuse up-to 2.00 mm sub-angular white and grey grog filler. Ext. rim diameter 300 mm.

C.16 Miscellaneous grey-wares.

Fine wares

Although surviving notes in Portsmouth museum indicate that some samian was found during the 1927 excavations, it is all unfortunately missing.

Four sherds do, however, survive in the 1967 material

F.1A South-Gaulish samian ware. The three pieces of La Graufesenque samian from the 1st-century building comprise:

A fragment from a South Gaulish Dr.29 of early-to-mid-Flavian date with a panel of vertical 'arrowheads' flanked on the left by part of a panel with a standing figure and on the right by a festoon containing a spiral tendril motif. SB67/1(8).

Small fragment from a Dr.29 or 30. SB67/1(2).

Body sherd from the upper zone of a Dr.29 decorated with a winding scroll the terminals of which end in buds and fronded motifs. Claudio/ Neronian. SB67/1(8).

F.1B First-century Lezoux samian. The 1967 excavations also produced a micaceous sherd from a first-century Lezoux samian Dr.27 cup. Small quantities of samian from this source were exported out of the Loire estuary to coastal sites in the south and west of Britain during the period c. 50-75. Considerable quantities of both undecorated and decorated forms are known from Phase 1 contexts at Fishbourne Palace and include another Dr.27 cup (Dannell 1971, Fig. 124-64).

F.2 Central Gaulish Terra Nigra. Very fine white fabric fired highly micaceous blue-grey. There is one platter sherd of uncertain form from the 1967 context SB67/3 (5).

F.3 North-east Gaul whitewares. Sandfree fabrics with sparse to moderate soft up-to 2.00 mm. red ferrous inclusions, fired cream, white or pink.

Fig. 9.48 Bell-cup in cream fabric copying Loeschche 7-8 examples in Terra Rubra of Tiberio/Claudian date. Ext. rim diameter 140 mm. SB67/7(12)

Not illustrated is another rim fragment in pink fabric from the 1926 excavation pottery.

Fig. 9.49 Rim from bottle or small flagon in white fabric. Ext. rim diameter 40 mm. Similar to Fishbourne Type 119 of pre-Flavian to early Flavian date.

Fig. 9.50 Dr.27 copy in cream fabric. Ext. rim diameter 120 mm. There is a similar cup from the Chichester Cattlemarket site (Rigby 1989, Fig. 16-1.22, late 1st/2nd C).

F.4 Very micaceous sandfree grey fabric. There is one beaker in this fabric, which may be of Central Gaulish or Armorican origin.

Fig. 9.51 Everted rim beaker. Ext. rim diameter 120 mm.

F.5 Hardham 'London' ware. Very fine maroon to streaky red-grey fabric with micaceous black slip. There are appreciable quantities of finewares from this mid-Sussex source in late-1st and early-2nd-century contexts at Chichester and Fishbourne Palace. The small amount from the Langstone villa includes a copy of a CAM 16 Gallo-Belgic platter and a shoulder fragment from a small jar of Fishbourne Type 72 with a dot-barbotine rosette. Both of these fragments come from the 1967 excavation of the 1st-century building.

F.6 Argonne colour-coat. A corniced bag-beaker rim may come from this source.

F.7 Cologne whiteware with brown colour-coat. Roughcast beakers, hunt cups and other beaker forms were imported in quantity during the mid-late 2nd century. Langstone villa has the following:

Fig. 9.52 Corniced rim from rough-cast bag beaker. Ext. rim diameter 100 mm.

Fig. 9.53 Bag beaker fragment with barbotine foliage and scroll decoration.

Fig. 9.54 Two fragments from barbotined hunt cups.

F.8 Colchester/Sinzig colour-coat. It has proved virtually impossible to distinguish between the rough-cast bag-beakers from these two sources (Storey *et al.* 1989). There is one fragment from the Langstone villa.

Fig. 9.55 Corniced bag-beaker rim. Ext. rim diameter 110 mm.

F.9 Trier dark-colour-coated wares or 'Moselkeramik' (Symonds 1992, 46). Beakers in this distinctive thin-walled fabric with metallic greenish-black colour-coat were imported into Britain in large quantities between c. 212 and 276. The Langstone villa has produced one fragment:

Fig. 9.56 Rim from beaker of Symonds Group 32. Ext. rim diameter 80 mm.

F.10A New Forest reduced Fabric 1A with purple colour-coat (Fulford 1975a). The surviving vessels from the 1927 excavations in this fabric consist entirely of indented beakers of Fulford Type 27 and bag-beakers of his Type 44. The Type 27 beakers all have well-defined beads to their rims and one has white-painted lattice decoration. They can all be dated to the period c. 260–350. Type 44 is represented by three beaker rims and is dated c. 300–350. None of the sherds need be later than 350.

F.10B New Forest oxidised Fabric 1A with red colour-coat (Fulford 1975a). Two body sherds from vessels of uncertain form are in the surviving 1927 material and there is a complete bowl footring from the 1967 Wall B robber trench SB67/1(4).

F.10C New Forest parchment ware (Fulford 1975a, Fabric 2A). This fabric is represented at Langstone by five late-3rd to early-4th-century mortaria and an unguentarium of Type 98, dated c. 320–380. Three of the mortaria are illustrated here as they do not conform very closely with Fulford's type series.

Fig. 9.57 Mortarium fired pinkish-buff with a weak, drooping flange and well-defined bead. Ext. rim diameter 200 mm. One of two.

Fig. 9.58 Small mortarium with stubby flange and hooked bead. Ext. rim diameter 140 mm.

Fig. 9.59 Mortarium rim with drooping flange and hooked bead. ?Ext. rim diameter.

F.11. Oxfordshire red colour-coated wares (Young 1977). The small amount from the 1927 excavations includes a large fragment from a Type C.100 rouletted mortarium (c. 300–400+), a C.45 shallow bowl with beaded rim (c. 270–400+) and the rim from a C.75 necked bowl (c. 325–400+).

F.12. 'Streak-burnished' ware (Green 1981). Fine-sanded orange fabric with orange-brown colour-coat streaked horizontally on the wheel-turning lines. Vessels in this fabric were made in

Table 1 Pottery, c. AD 43–100, expressed as EVEs

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Jars</i>	<i>Bowls</i>	<i>Dishes</i>	<i>Beakers</i>	<i>Others</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
C.1	–	–	–	–		–	P.	
2	0.63	0.45	0.12	–	lid	0.06	1.26	9.8
3A	–	0.08	0.14	–		–	0.22	1.7
3B	4.96	2.29	0.89	0.25	lids	0.25		
					flagons	0.88	9.52	73.7
4	–	–	0.06	0.22		0.30	0.58	4.5
5	–	–	0.08	–		–	0.08	0.6
6	–	–	0.22	–		–	0.22	1.7
16	0.24	0.40	0.11	0.29		–	1.04	8.0
Sub-total	5.83	3.22	1.62	0.76		1.49	12.92	86.7
F.3	–	0.15	–	–	flagons	0.96		
					Dr.27	0.07		
					tazza	0.06	1.24	8.4
4	–	–	–	0.28		–	0.28	1.9
5	–	–	0.22	0.10		–	0.32	2.1
13	–	–	–	0.14		–	0.14	0.9
Total	5.83	3.37	1.84	1.28		2.58	14.90	
%	39.1	22.6	12.3	8.6		17.4		

East Kent during the late-3rd and early-4th centuries. There is one vessel from the Langstone villa.

Fig. 9.60 Large bead-rimmed dish of Green Type 6 (1981, Fig. 1). Ext. rim diameter 280 mm.

Changing Patterns of Pottery Supply

The selective nature of the surviving pottery from the pre-war excavations and the very limited amounts from the 1967 contexts means that little can be inferred from any quantification of the material. Nevertheless certain basic conclusions can be drawn.

Pottery supply to the site during the late-1st

century (Table 1) seems to have been very similar to that at Fishbourne, only 14 km to the east. Small quantities of pottery in soot-soaked 'Atrebatian overlap' fabric are present at both sites and are probably largely Claudian-to-early Neronian in date. Late Iron Age occupation is, however, possible at Langstone, in that a sherd from a micaceous Central Gaulish Terra Nigra platter is present in the 1967 pottery and could be as early as Late Augustan in date. There are also a few calcined flint-tempered sherds of Iron Age character.

A number of the late-1st-century pottery imports are paralleled at Fishbourne. Bowls in the coarse oxidised Fabric C.5 and the sand-free grey C.6 are probably continental in origin. South

Table 2 Pottery, c. AD 100–250, expressed as EVEs

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Jars</i>	<i>Bowls</i>	<i>Dishes</i>	<i>Beakers</i>	<i>Store Jars</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
C.3A	–	–	–	–	0.86	–	0.86	1.7
3B	29.20	2.11	2.25	4.08	–	lids	4.21	41.85
7	0.61	2.16	1.03	0.09	–	–	–	3.89
8	1.65	–	0.14	0.27	–	lid	0.07	2.13
11	–	0.15	–	–	–	–	–	0.15
13	–	0.20	–	–	–	–	–	0.20
16	0.99	0.17	–	0.16	–	–	–	1.32
Sub-total	32.45	4.79	3.42	4.60	0.86	–	4.28	50.40
F.6	–	–	–	0.12	–	–	–	0.12
7	–	–	–	0.57	–	–	–	0.57
8	–	–	–	0.09	–	–	–	0.09
9	–	–	–	0.38	–	–	–	0.38
15	–	–	–	–	–	flagons	0.39	
						mort.	0.05	0.44
C.10	–	–	–	–	–	mort.	0.10	0.10
Total	32.45	4.79	3.42	5.76	0.86	–	4.82	52.10
%	62.3	9.2	6.6	11.1	1.7	–	9.3	

Gaulish samian from La Graufesenque and micaceous Central Gaulish samian from the Lezoux kilns are present at both sites. Kilns in Northern Gaul and perhaps locally sited ones supplied a variety of cream and white flagons, cups and other forms.

The early local Rowlands Castle kiln products, at nearly three-quarters of all the pottery, seem to have been much more significant at the Langstone villa than at Fishbourne: conversely, the coarse and fineware products emanating from the Hardham kilns in mid-Sussex are considerable rarer than further east. This is to be expected, in view of the proximity of Langstone to the Rowlands Castle kilns and its greater distance from Hardham.

The pattern of pottery supply to the Langstone

villa during the 2nd and early-3rd centuries (Table 2) saw the continued total domination by products from the Rowlands Castle kilns. The vast majority of the pots from this source are cooking-pots with stubby everted rims. Some BB1 bowls, dishes and cooking-pots began to be supplied to Langstone after AD 120. This 2nd-century supply was probably by sea from Poole Harbour and extended along the coast eastwards as far as Chichester. During the 3rd century considerably more BB1 began to arrive on coastal sites in Hampshire, including Langstone, and the coastal trade in such wares was extended along the Sussex coast and beyond (Lyne 1994).

Small amounts of other wares may also have been supplied by sea. A poppy-head beaker in

Table 3 Pottery, c. AD 250–300+, expressed as EVEs

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Jars</i>	<i>Bowls</i>	<i>Dishes</i>	<i>Beakers</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
C.3B	–	0.81	0.51	–	–	1.32	32.8
3C	–	–	–	0.08	–	0.08	2.0
7	0.30	0.61	–	–	–	0.91	22.6
12	0.36	0.42	0.15	0.18	–	1.11	27.6
13	–	–	0.18	–	–	0.18	4.5
14	0.15	–	–	–	–	0.15	3.7
15	0.16	–	–	–	–	0.16	4.0
16	0.11	–	–	–	–	0.11	2.8
Sub-total	1.08	1.84	0.84	0.26		4.02	63.3
F.10A	–	–	–	1.22	–	1.22	19.2
10C	–	–	–	–	mort. 0.40		
					ung. 0.21	0.61	9.6
11	–	0.05	0.12	–	mort. 0.26	0.43	6.8
12	–	0.07	–	–	–	0.07	1.1
Total	1.08	1.96	0.96	1.48	0.87	6.35	
%	17.0	30.9	15.1	23.3	13.7		

white-slipped Highgate greyware and a Verulamium region mortarium may have come from a ship out of London and two pie-dishes in Thameside greyware may have been brought by sea out of either London or the Medway estuary. At least one colour-coated beaker originated at Colchester and Continental finewares were shipped in from the Cologne, Argonne and Trier kilns during this period. Slightly larger amounts of handmade Vectis ware were brought by ship across Spithead from the Isle of Wight after c. 200.

There appears to be far less late-3rd and 4th-century pottery from Langstone (Table 3), although some of the Rowlands Castle cooking-pots may be late-3rd or early-4th-century in date. It is probable that these kilns remained the most significant supplier to Langstone until after 300, but unfortunately the majority of early-4th-

century cooking-pots from this source are very difficult to distinguish from earlier products.

Most of the datable late Roman pottery from Langstone seems to be earlier in date than c. 350. The New Forest pottery includes grey, purple and red-colour-coated and parchment ware products. A few Oxfordshire red-colour-coated forms are also present and there is one very unexpected 'Streak-burnished' dish from East Kent. This almost certainly arrived by sea.

Although most of the late pottery need not be later than 350, there is one small group of vessels which are of late-4th or even early-5th-century date. These vessels include three handmade developed-beaded-and-flanged bowls in Rowlands Castle type greyware (Fig. 9.37,38), Overwey rilled cooking-pot fragments and an Alice Holt beaded-and-flanged dish (Fig. 9.46).

The slight nature of this late-4th-century occupation is borne out by the presence of a mere two fragments of Hampshire Grog Tempered ware. These handmade wares became significant in coastal areas of Hampshire during the late-4th century and they might be expected to be more common at Langstone had there been significant post-370 activity there.

It is possible that the 4th-century pottery from Langstone is not the result of normal occupation on the site itself, as the main group from the 1967 excavation came from a wall-robbing trench. Perhaps the 4th-century occupation was centred on an as yet unexcavated building elsewhere in the villa complex, which was constructed of stone robbed from the earlier villa. This situation is paralleled at Fishbourne Palace, where the building was burnt at the end of the 3rd century and plundered for building materials during the 4th-century by people who squatted in the ruins and used their wall-robbing trenches for rubbish disposal (Cunliffe 1971, 192).

OTHER FINDS

The Coins

The excavations by Owen Adames recovered a number of coins from the villa site. These seem to have been kept with the other material and may eventually have been deposited in Portsmouth City Museum. Unfortunately these cannot now be traced but a list, possibly that originally made by Adames himself, has survived and is reproduced here. The dates given do not always correspond with actual regnal years and may indicate suggested years of issue.

1. Iron Age coin of the Durotriges (Evans G5-6).
2. Iron Age coin Gallo-Belgic.
3. Vespasian (69-70).
4. Septimius Severus (193-211).
5. Valerian I (253-260).
6. Tetricus I (268-273).
7. Carausius (286-293).
- 8-12. Constantine II (317-340).
13. Constans (333-350).
14. Theodosius I (379-395).
- 15-18. Unidentified 4th-century.

Brick and Tile by Tony Hurley and Robert Foot

Only a fraction of the original assemblage of tiles found in the excavations at Langstone has survived. Two collections still exist, one in Portsmouth City Museum (accession number 128/47) and the second in Brighton Museum (accession number R 2860/1-5, 250235-250229). The material consists of:

- 13 complete *tegulae*, 2 of which are still bonded together as part of a hypocaust stack and 10 fragments.
- 1 complete *imbrex* and 9 fragments.
- 16 fragments of flue tile, all with combed decoration.
- 1 complete brick and 23 fragments.

A further small group, part of the finds from the 1967 excavations, are currently in storage at Fishbourne Roman Palace.

Fabrics

Six fabric groups were identified:

1.) A pinkish-orange fabric with occasional reddish-brown ferruginous inclusions with an average diameter of 1 mm. This was not a very sandy fabric but did contain varying amounts of fine sand and occasional larger rounded grains. In addition there were occasional particles of flint, sparse chaff tempering and fine streaks of whitish silty clay. *Tegulae*, *imbrices*, box flue tile and brick were present in this fabric.

2.) Virtually identical to fabric 1, differing only in the inclusion of more streaks of white clay. Only *tegulae* were present in this fabric.

3.) A buff coloured fabric with an abundance of sand. The grains of sand were of varying size, whitish or transparent and sub-rounded to angular in shape. There were also small, rounded, coarse textured red-brown ferruginous inclusions, and a few small white clay pellets. Only fragments of box flue tile occurred in this fabric.

4.) A uniformly creamy-white fabric, with occasional large, rounded pinkish ferruginous inclusions. This fabric was identified only from a fragment of a single *imbrex*.

5.) A creamy white fabric of uniform colour lacking the very fine sand of fabric 4. There was a moderate abundance of sub-angular medium sized grains of sand scattered throughout the fabric. There were no ferruginous inclusions. Only fragments of box flue tile occurred in this fabric.

6.) A fairly even, orange fabric with small red-brown ferruginous inclusions less than 1 mm in diameter.

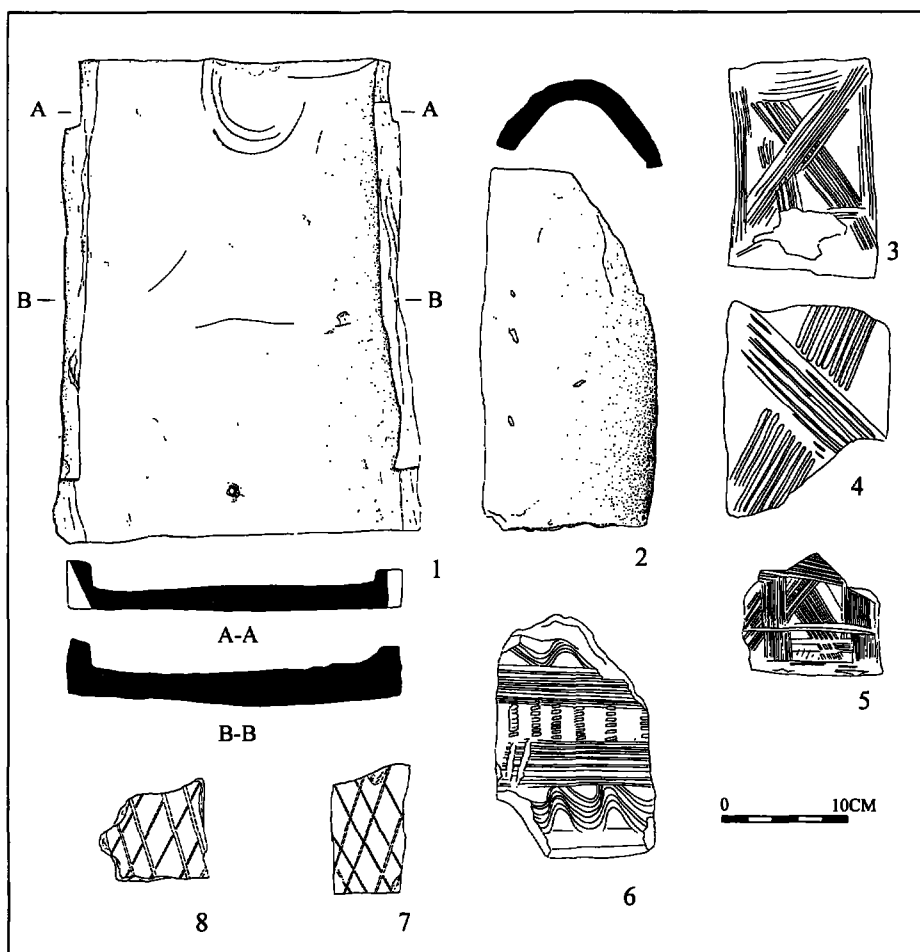


Fig. 10 Langstone Avenue: tiles

There was also a moderate amount on small-medium rounded grains of sand.

Types of tile

Tegulae. All the complete *tegulae* were of fabric groups 1 and 2 and almost certainly originated at the same tiler. The group is interesting as it provides an instructive glimpse of the details of manufacture. Initial shaping was almost certainly in wooden formers, following which the tiles were allowed to dry on a bed of sand. The flanges were probably roughly shaped by hand although most of the tiles discussed here have a considerable

similarity of flange shape. This suggests that a former was used to finish the flanges.

Another characteristic of the Langstone *tegulae* is the unusual nature of the cutaways on some examples. Brodrribb (1987, 17) has already noted the existence of these tiles with his angled type 1 cutaway on the left and the straight type 4 on the right (Fig. 10.1). This is ascribed to the work of a left-handed tiler. However, it is far more likely to be the work of a right-handed person. When the cutaways were made, the leather-hard tile would be held upright with the left hand, roughly in the centre of one end. Finger impressions are visible

on the upper surfaces of some *tegulae* in exactly this position. The straight, right-hand cutaway, would then be made at a right angle to the workers body. The left-hand cutaway would then be made. Due to the position of the body and the need to cut from underneath the left arm this cut would be at approximately 60 degrees to the body. On one *tegula* in Brighton Museum, the left-hand cutaway produced by this method was so extreme that it had to be re-shaped in order to make the tile usable.

In some cases there have been attempts to pare off irregularities on the underside of the tiles before firing.

All of the complete *tegulae* and three of the fragments had signatures. There is only one style, a semicircular sweep at one end of the tile made with two or three fingers after the removal of the tile from its mould, as indicated by the slight lip made by the fingers running over the edge of the tile.

A single stamped tile, now lost, was found during the excavations of the 1920's (Warren 1926, 286–287). The Langstone stamp read TIF[...], and the full reading of the stamp seems to have been TIFR. The products of this tiler are known from other sites in Hampshire (Frere & Tomlin 1993, 72, 2489.42). The production site seems to have been at the tilery near Crookhorn which was in operation c. 280–330 (Soffe, Nichols & Moore 1989, 77–79). It is not clear what proportion of the tiles at Langstone were produced at Crookhorn. Although the Langstone fabric 1 has similarities with the Crookhorn fabric 7, none of the more distinctive soft-fired types seem to be present amongst the Langstone material.

There are five examples of nail holes, both round and square. In all certain cases the holes are at the top, or wider, edge of the tile. Generally this is assumed to indicate tiles intended to provide the lowest course on the pitch of a roof, and therefore requiring greater stability.

Imbrices. A virtually complete example in fabric 1 (Fig. 10.2), and some fragments in fabric 4 are present in the assemblage.

Box flue tiles. Fragments of box flue tiles exist in four fabrics, 1, 3, 5 and 6. By far the largest group are in fabric 1. All the fragments had combed decoration, although again the greatest variety in patterning was in fabric 1 (Fig. 10.3–5).

In this group the comb tended to be pulled across the surface of the tile to produce straight or lines or waves. In one instance the points of the comb had been pressed into the surface of the tile in order to produce a series of indentations to accompany the waves and lines (Fig. 10.6).

The number of teeth varied from 6 to 9, although an 8 tooth comb was the most popular. The smallest comb was 26 mm in width and the largest 53 mm. In fabrics 3 and 5 the combed decoration was produced with an implement which gave a distinctive wide lattice decoration (Fig. 10.7–8).

Brick. A number of fragments of brick are present in the assemblage, and there is one complete example measuring 418 × 288 × 48 mm in fabric 1. these dimensions are probably consistent with the identification of this as a *lydion*.

Other marks on brick and tile. These include animal prints, all of dogs, three hobnailed boot marks, and the foot print of a bare footed infant. Obviously the tiles were laid on the ground for drying purposes. The presence of varying age ranges, as attested by the different sizes of boot and foot prints, indicates that tile making was a process which could involve the whole of an extended family group.

Objects of Bronze

It is clear from the surviving photographs that Owen Adames recovered a large number of metallic items during his excavations. The surviving iron work consists largely of nails and a series of unidentifiable corroded lumps, none of this material was thought to be worth comment. The bronze objects included a wide range of items, some of which have survived in the collections of Portsmouth City Museum, or which were drawn by Owen Adames. A selection of the more diagnostic items has been made and these are described and illustrated here.

1. A fibula of Hod Hill type A (drawing by Owen Adames). The bow has a single transverse rib above a central section with vertical fluted decoration either side of a line of beading. The lower section of the bow is marked by three transverse ribs above a small terminal knob. Mid to late 1st-century AD (Hattatt 1982, 88–90) (Fig. 11.1).
2. A plate brooch fibula roughly sole shaped (draw-

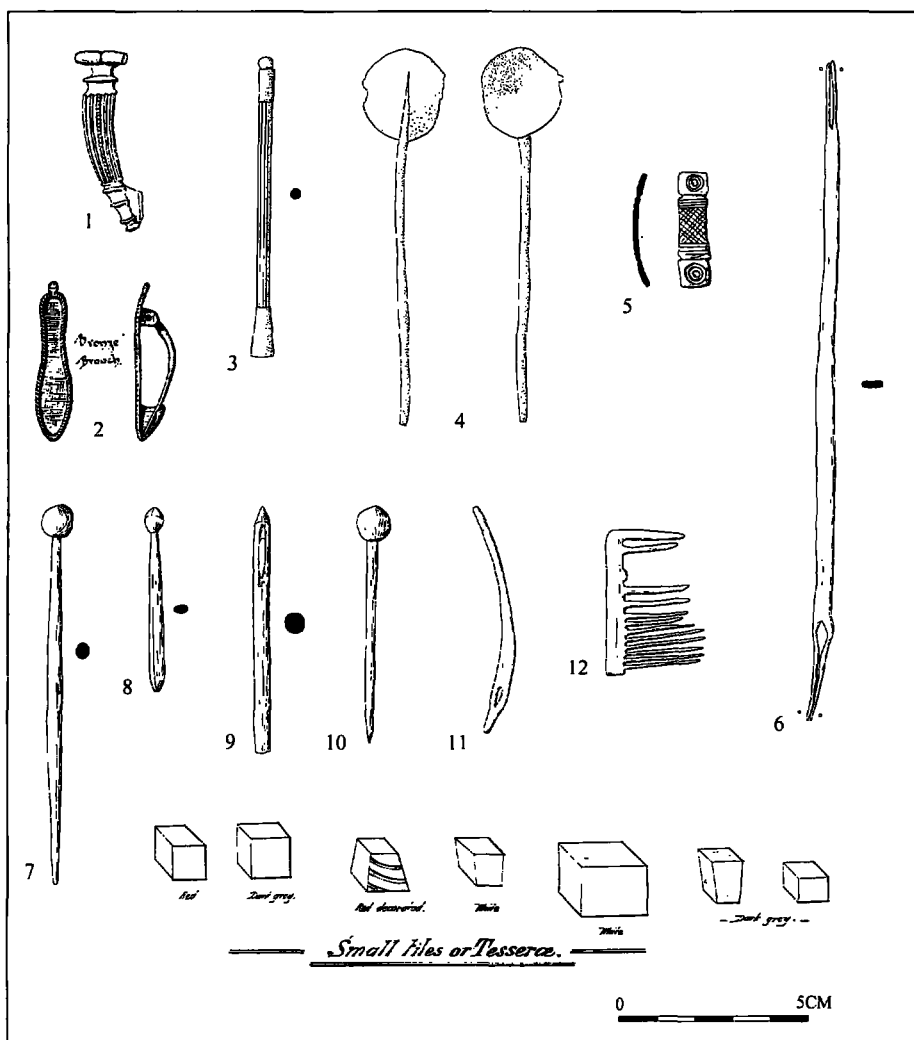


Fig. 11 Langstone Avenue: metal objects, bone objects and tesserae.

ing by Owen Adames). The centre of the face was probably once enamelled. The border is marked by a continuous line of moulded roped decoration and surmounted by a small floral motif. No direct parallels have been found for this and it may not be Roman (Fig. 11.2).

3. Length 80 mm, thickness of octagonal shaft 2.5 mm.

A stylus. A small terminal knob surmounts a short section of the shaft with a circular cross section. The rest of the shaft is octagonal. The flaring,

conical bottom of the shaft is broken and the point is missing (Fig. 11.3).

4. Length 96 mm, diameter of bowl 23 mm.
A spoon with a circular bowl (Cunliffe 1971, 120-121, Fig. 47) (Fig. 11.4).
5. Length 30 mm, width 6 mm thickness 1.5 mm.
A small convex ornament, possibly a belt fitting. The terminal ends are decorated with moulded concentric circles while the central portion, between a series of transverse ribs, is scored with cross hatched lines (Fig. 11.5).

6. Length 172 mm, width 3 mm, thickness 2 mm.
A long bar with a rectangular section. Both ends are split and pierced with small holes, presumably to allow other similar bar-like elements to pivot at either end (Fig. 11.6).

Worked Bone by Lindsay Ford

A considerable quantity of worked bone from the excavations of the 1920's survives in Portsmouth City Museum, but no similar material appears to have been found during the 1967 excavations. As with the other finds from the early excavations the exact provenance of this material is unknown, although it is likely to have come from the plunge bath and heated room. A number of sawn rings of bone and antler seem to represent unfinished artifacts or discarded waste. Combined with the 22 intact or fragmentary pins which seem to have been found, this might imply that production was occurring on the site. Only a selection of items are described and illustrated here.

1. Length 100 mm, diameter of shaft 4 mm, diameter of head 9 mm.
A complete large spherical headed pin or bodkin, the shaft is polished through use (Crummy 1979, type 3). These have a postulated date span of c. AD 200–400 (Fig. 11.7).
2. Length 49 mm, width of shaft 4 mm, diameter of head 5 mm.
A complete, small ovoid, slightly pointed headed pin with a short, wide flattened shaft (Fig. 11.8).
3. Length 63 mm, width of shaft 4 mm diameter of head 9 mm.
A complete large spherical headed pin/bodkin, the shaft is polished through use (Fig. 11.9).
4. Length 65 mm, width of shaft 5 mm, diameter of head 10 mm.
A broken needle with an elongated oblong eye, 10 mm from the head, with tapering edges at top and bottom on both sides. The head is shaped to a point and polished through use (Kenyon 1948, 267, Fig. 91) (Fig. 11.10).
5. Length 58 mm, width 4 mm, width of eye 1 mm.
A possible needle made from a fish bone with an irregular oblong hole cut into the top. Broken at the tip. If this is a needle then it would be exceptionally delicate (Fig. 11.11).
6. Length 38 mm, thickness 2 mm, maximum length of teeth 25 mm.
A fragment of a comb tooth plate with twelve remaining teeth. The teeth in the centre of the

plate were thin with wider teeth at the edge. The plate is very thin and warped (Fig. 11.12).

Painted wall plaster by Nicki King

Seventy-six fragments of painted wall plaster from 'Spes Bona' were extant in Portsmouth Museum in 1990. Most of these probably came from the baths excavated between 1923 and 1925. It is not known whether any of the material was found *in situ*. One fragment of red-painted quarter moulding was identified, this may have originated in the plunge bath. The general condition of the fragments was good, the painted surfaces were little abraded. Consolidation has occurred since excavation. The mortar backing appeared homogeneous on visual inspection, although its thickness varied. There was no indication of any backing material such as wood or wattle on the rear of any of the fragments. In some cases colours are over-painted which might indicate multiple phases of decoration.

A number of decorative elements are indicated in this small sample of material. Stripes and bands of colour are used in a variety of combinations to divide areas of other colours. Most prominently, white is used to divide areas or wider bands. The combinations of black and red (Fig. 12.1), black and yellow (Fig. 12.2), red and green (Fig. 12.3), red and blue (Fig. 12.4) and blue and yellow (Fig. 12.5) were noted. White is also found as a background to stripes of yellow (Fig. 12.6) and red (Fig. 12.7). These probably indicate a decorative scheme including a number of divisions of the wall into panels.

A number of fragments of yellow painted on a red ground were present. These indicate a more elaborate scheme of decoration, possibly in two parts. Two fragments which may form part of a frame are illustrated (Fig. 12.8–9). More complex designs are hinted at by a series of fragments of yellow on red (Fig. 12.10–15).

One example of marbled decoration was also identified (Fig. 12.16). Green and red veins were painted over purple ground. This is not a common combination of colours. The fragment is naturalistic in execution, which may date the fragment to the 1st or 2nd centuries AD (Davey & Ling 1981, 31). Imitation marble panels are often found to decorate the dado zone of a wall, and this fragment may be part of such a scheme.

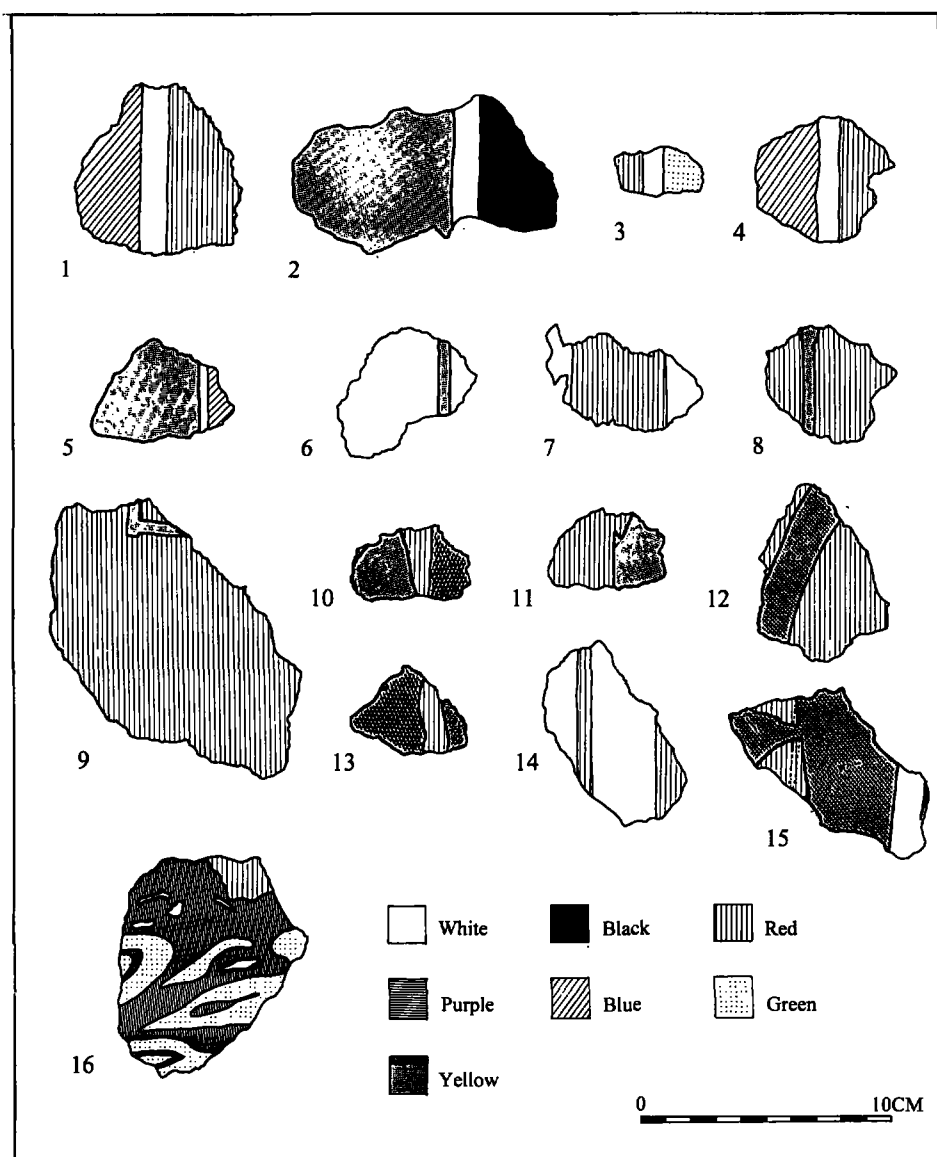


Fig. 12 Langstone Avenue: painted wall plaster

This fragmentary assemblage may originally have formed part of decorative schemes in different parts of the building. The evidence suggests a building with a range of decoration typical of smaller establishments of the Roman period. The walls were

probably divided into three parts, dado, middle zone, and frieze. Predominant in this was the division of the parts into panels, in which further decorative elements may have been included, but if so, then none of these has survived in an identifiable form.

DISCUSSION

The exact nature of the building in the garden of 'Spes Bona' is open to question. The presence of the bath suite certainly suggests some form of residential use and a villa is certainly one possibility. It is clear that the site extends to the north and west beyond the immediate limit of the excavated area, with further activity occurring at a greater distance to the east (see below). Whether all the structures suggested by these disparate finds belong to the same complex or to a more dispersed arrangement is unclear.

Due to the partly unstratified nature of the finds it is difficult to be certain concerning the chronology of the two identified phases. The pottery from phase 1 strongly suggests that the building was in existence by the reign of Nero (54–68) at the latest. The presence of South Gaulish samian may suggest an even earlier date to activity on the site although it is impossible to be certain with such minimal evidence. The ceramic sequence continues through the 2nd and into the 3rd centuries, and although structural evidence is lacking it seems probable that the occupation of the site continued through the 2nd century. Nothing is known of the internal organisation of the phase 1 building, although Owen Adames recorded finding of black, white and red tesserae together with examples red tesserae made from tile and possibly samian ware (Fig. 11), suggesting mosaic floors.

The apparently early date of the phase 1 building would, if sustained, make the villa at 'Spes Bona' one of the earliest in this part of the southern Hampshire coastal plain. It may be best seen in the context of the architecturally advanced series of other early villas along the coastal plain of Sussex to the east (Cunliffe 1991, 165). The presence of black and white mosaic floors (Fig. 11) is perhaps further corroboration of this link. The massive complex at Fishbourne should not be seen as marking any sort of natural boundary to this villa settlement on the rich coastal littoral. Indeed the position of the villa at Langstone at the head of a natural harbour is so similar to that at Fishbourne that one is tempted to ask whether the same locational factors were at work. There is no indication of an early military presence in the Havant area, but the existence of a small coastal

port, through which the comparatively large amounts of Vectis ware may have come at a later date, is a possibility.

The phase 2 building seems to have a *terminus post quem* of the early-mid 3rd century provided by sherds of New Forest ware from a robber trench of the phase 1 building. Our knowledge of the arrangement of the phase 2 structures is, apart from the bath suite, almost as vague as that for phase 1. A courtyard, surrounded by a corridor, appears to have ranges of rooms to the north and south. The size of the western wall of the building might suggest a structure with an upper floor. A smaller building, or perhaps a further element of a single complex, existed to the west of the courtyard complex.

The bath suite of the phase 2 building is a further example of the 'utility' type known from at least nine other sites in Hampshire (Johnston 1978, 78–83). The dimensions of the heated rooms places them within the parameters required for Johnston's standard width measurement (Johnston 1978, 82). Unfortunately the full plan was not recovered during excavation so some doubt must remain about the overall arrangement, in particular, whether there was a further heated room to the west of the two excavated rooms. Sufficient space seems to exist for at least one more unit. If this were the case then the nearest parallel to the Langstone baths would be those at Newport on the Isle of Wight. Indeed, at Newport some of the *pilae* were constructed out of *voussoir* box flue tiles, an arrangement reminiscent of the baths at Langstone. A further point is the arrangement of the cold plunge bath at the extreme western end of the bath range. Normally this space is occupied by a small entrance chamber, perhaps at Langstone one of the rooms to the north of the baths fulfilled this function?

Although no *praefurnium* was discovered at Langstone, the arrangement of rooms suggests that this would have lain to the west in common with the general scheme of 'utility' type baths.

Providing a date for the end of occupation is also problematic. Malcolm Lyne (see above) has noted the relative paucity of late 4th century wares from the surviving ceramic assemblage. The surviving coin list shows a reasonable spread through the later 3rd and early 4th centuries until c. 350.

Thereafter there are only two coins of Theodosius the Great (379–395). It is possible, as Lyne suggests, that occupation of the phase 2 building continued into the mid 4th century followed by the demolition of the buildings and robbing of the walls. A less extensive occupation may have remained in the vicinity into the 5th century. Two Saxon coloured glass beads were found by Owen Adames, but no other evidence of activity of this date seems to have been found.

A concentration of Roman finds has long been known in the Havant area. Structures are known or suspected in Havant itself (Hughes 1976, 70–72), and the surrounding region is rich in traces of villa and other settlement, particularly from the second to fourth centuries AD (Black 1987, Fig. 5). Two major roads, Margary (1973, 91–94) routes 421 and 425, actually appear to cross within the limits of the town. These were probably the catalyst for the growth of a small town or market centre at this point (Hughes 1976, 71). It is clear though that occupation is widely dispersed. Langstone Avenue is a significant distance to the south of the crossroads and the structures nearby are not isolated. In April 1990 a spread of Roman building debris was found in the

roots of storm toppled trees at SU 719 053, supplementing earlier discoveries in 1962 (Hants. County SMR). Also to the south along route 425 is Hayling Island with its temple (King & Soffe 1994) and other occupation sites (Bradley & Fulford 1975).

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Author: Oliver Gilkes, School of World Art Studies and Museology, UEA, Norwich, NR4 7TJ

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