

# Fishbourne Roman Palace

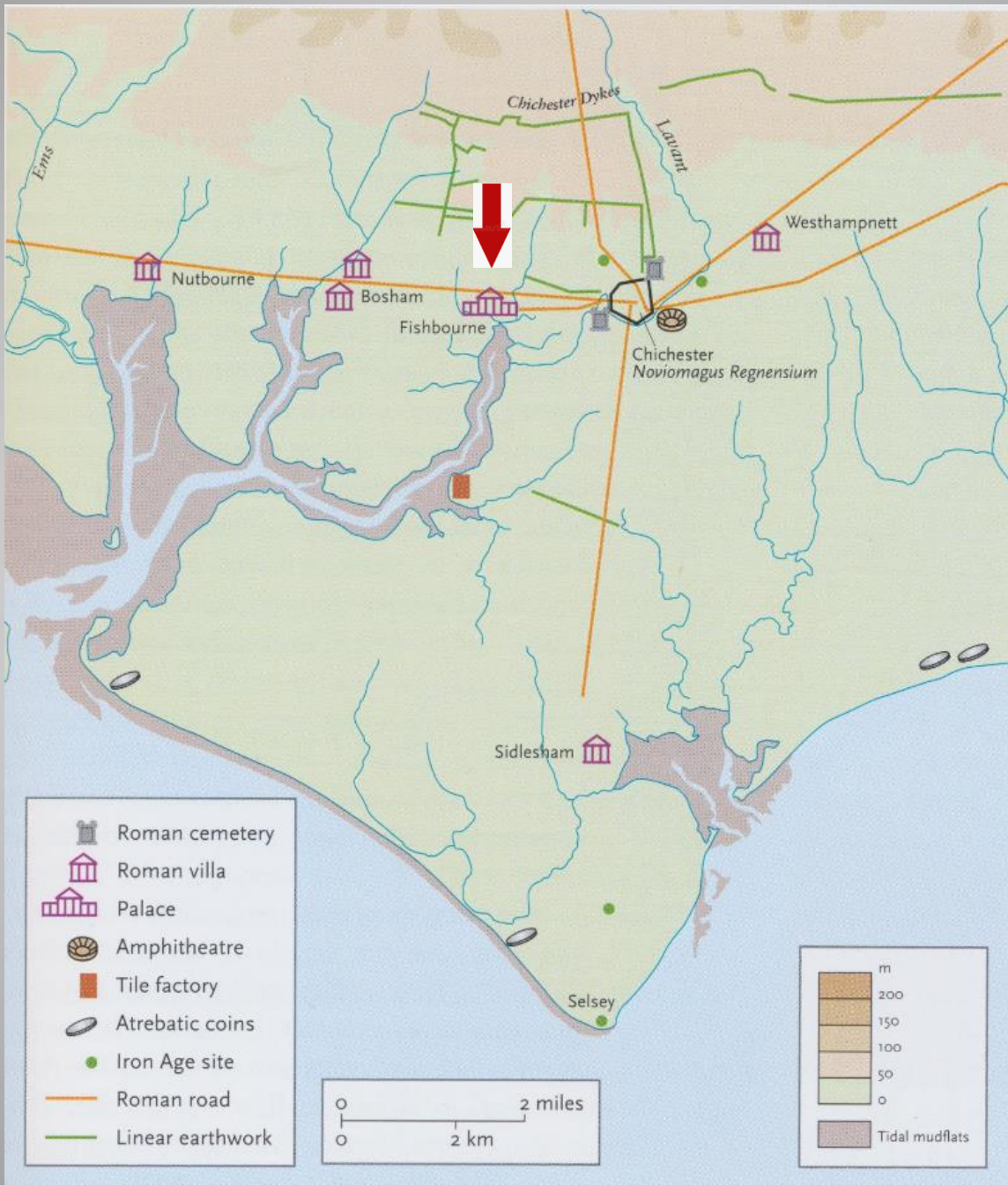
The most successful of the “client kings” was Cogidubnus of the Atrebates (or was it Togidubnus? The first two letters are missing on an inscription providing his name!). He was allowed to take the name “Tiberius Claudius Cogidubnus.”



He was unswervingly loyal to Rome during his long reign, and the huge palace at Fishbourne may well have been his residence.



**Fishbourne is the largest Roman palace north of the Alps....larger than today's Buckingham Palace.**





### *The Entrance Hall*

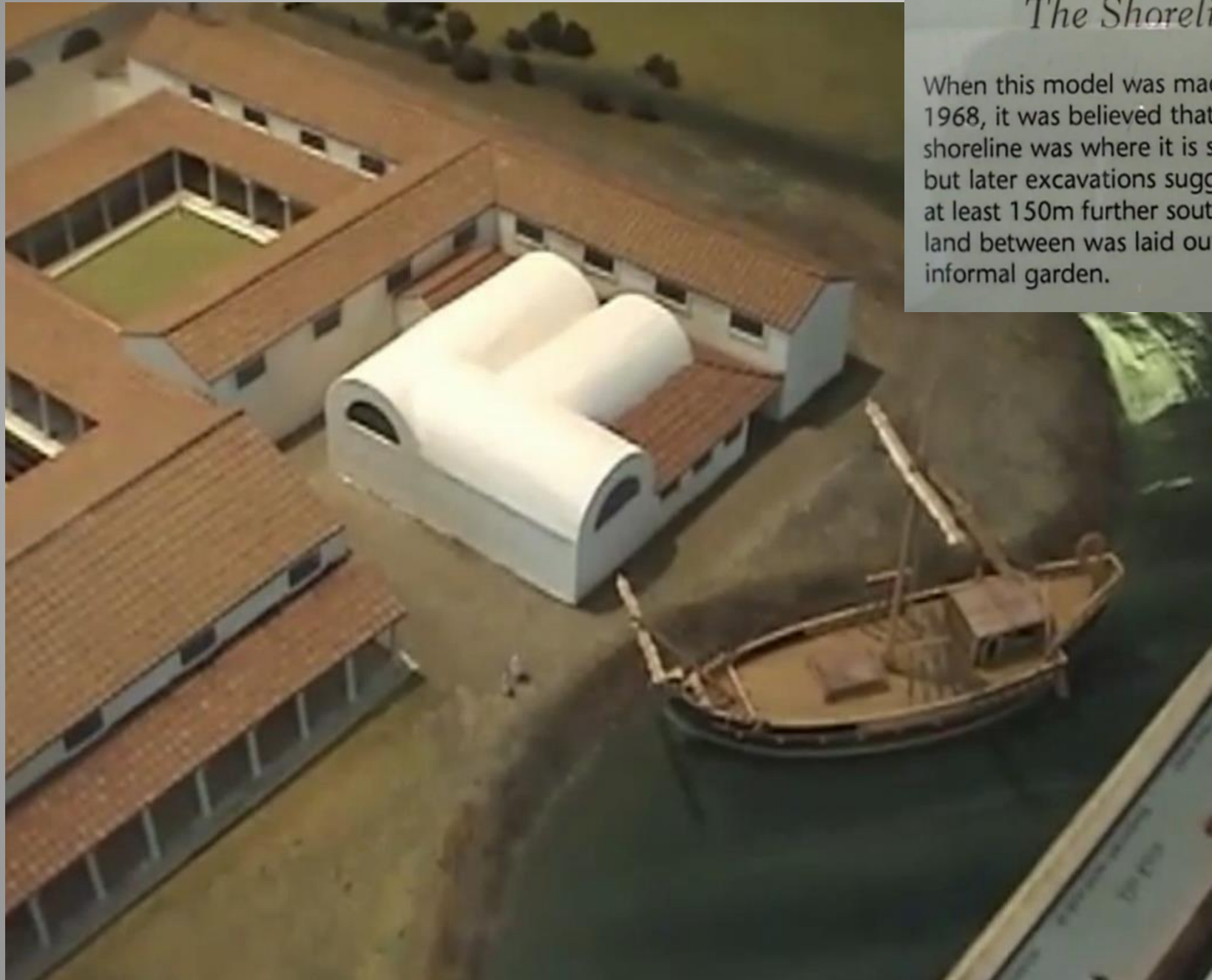
The Entrance Hall stood at the centre of the East Wing, at the end of the road from *Noviomagus* (Chichester). All visitors to the Palace would have entered through this impressive hall, where they would catch a glimpse of the formal garden across an ornamental pool.



### *The Formal Garden*

In the centre of the Palace was a large formal garden laid out with paths, box hedges, trees, flowering shrubs and fountains.

The reconstruction here is based on evidence from the 1960s excavations, which revealed the plan of the original garden.



## *The Shoreline*

When this model was made in 1968, it was believed that the shoreline was where it is shown here, but later excavations suggest it was at least 150m further south and the land between was laid out as an informal garden.



20 A room in the Palace

Informational text on the museum sign, including a title and several lines of descriptive text.







## Corridor Mosaic

This second-century corridor mosaic is composed of 22 alternating red and grey boxes. Each box contains diagonal crosses made up of nine smaller boxes of grey or red. Subsidence, blistering and damage from agriculture have made the pattern difficult to see.

The corridor in which this mosaic was laid appears to have been built early in the second century. It would have made it easier to move backwards and forwards between the north wing, to your left, and the west wing, to your right.



## Square & Diamond Pattern Mosaic



This is a good example of the mosaics that were laid when the Palace was built, around AD75 to 80, with designs that were popular in Rome at that time. Most have geometric patterns in black on a white background. Although the designs were brought here from Italy, the small cubes (*tesserae*) from which the mosaics were made came from this part of Britain.



## Mosaic & Hypocaust

There are only a few pieces of this late first-century mosaic left. Most of it was destroyed when the under-floor heating system (*hypocaust*) was built. The pattern probably had nine squares, with black lines on a white background and some small areas of red and blue-grey.





## Cupid on a Dolphin Mosaic

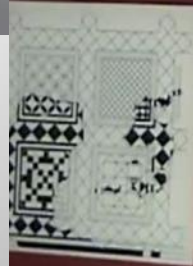


This beautiful mosaic was laid in the mid second century. Cupid, with his trident, rides a dolphin flanked by sea-horses and sea-panthers. You can also see scallop shells and wine vases, appropriate images in a dining room. Look for the small black bird on the farther vine-tendril border. It may be the mosaicist's trade mark. Note also the 'doormat', with its change of design marking the entrance.





## West Wing Mosaics



These fragments of late first-century black and white geometric mosaics were discovered in 1987, during excavations in a private garden over what was once the southern end of the west wing. They were moved here for their safety.





# BAMM

BAMM are the initials of the British Association for Modern Mosaics. It has over 400 members both in the UK and overseas. Its objective is to promote and encourage Mosaic Art in the UK.

This is the third time that BAMM has mounted a mosaics exhibition at Fishbourne, the last being 2008.



### Small Beginnings, Suzanne De'Roure

NFS

Made with nipped down ceramic tile. I wanted to create a Minerva mosaic before I knew how to make them. Statues and walls were painted bright colours but so little colour has survived in the passing of time. Here is my 'little' impression of it, Minerva and her owl, goddess of crafts being one of her many





"EQUUS"  
BY- DEREK HARMSWORTH  
PRICE- \$380  
THE AIM WAS TO CAPTURE  
THE DIFFERENT MOODS OF A  
GROUP OF HORSES  
(GLAZED CERAMIC TILE ON PLYWOOD)

## 'Isis of Paphos'

Margaret Carney

NFS

On a visit to Cyprus, I saw the stunning mosaics at the World Heritage site in Paphos harbour. There was also the damaged marble head of a statue of Isis. It was still beautiful. I was inspired to recreate her in mosaic, keeping to the classical style as far as possible. Isis was the goddess of many things including the moon and Springtime. During festival times, the Romans would bedeck the statues in jewellery so I thought designing some for her was appropriate.





### **'100% Blade'**

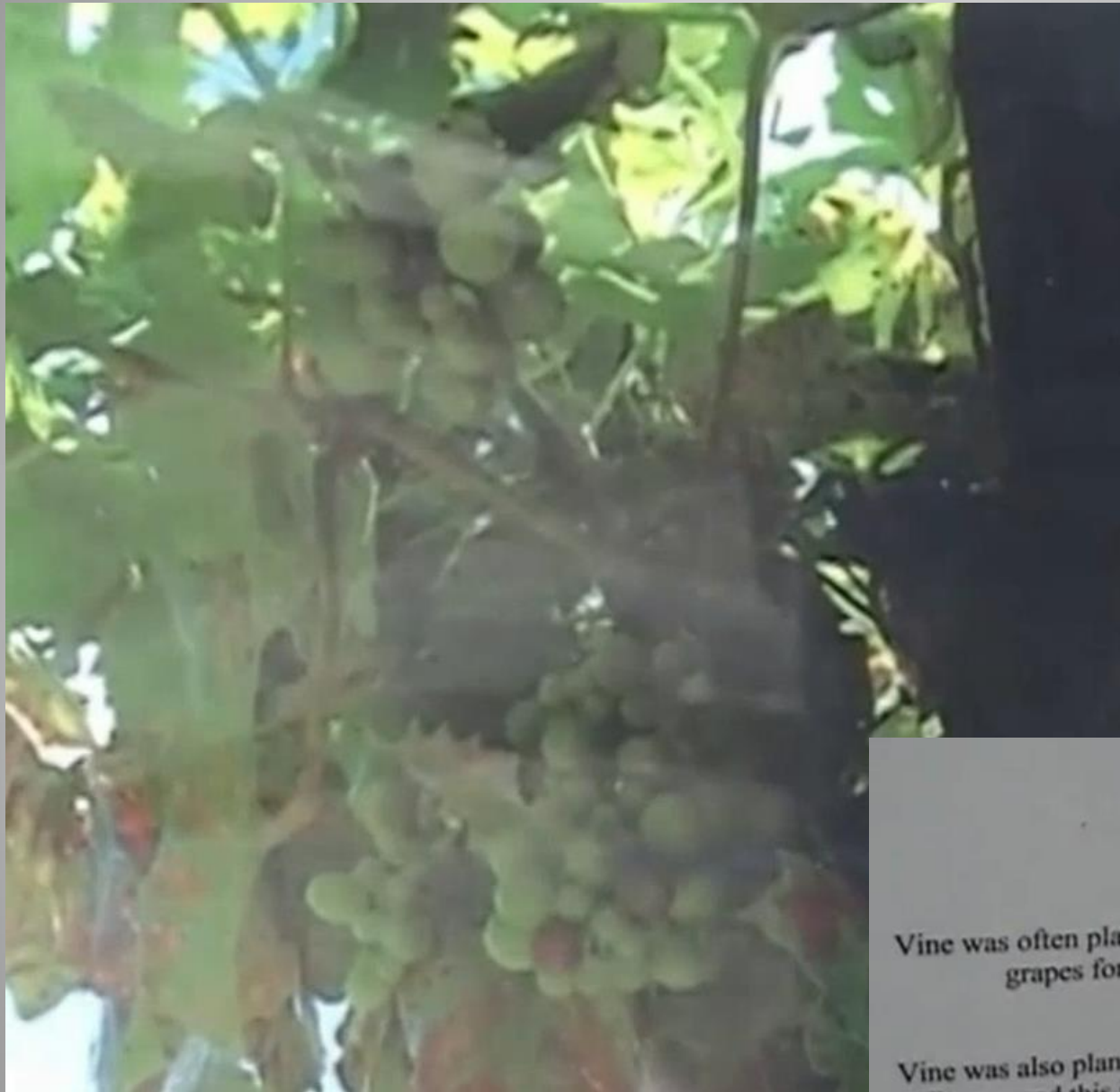
Margaret Carney

NFS

'Sharpe' has always been a 'family favourite' and a particular hero for my son. This portrait of the actor Sean Bean in that role resulted as a group vote for my next mosaic. The title is ambiguous, referring not only to the tattoo that Sean has signifying his lifelong dedication to Sheffield United Football Club but also the swordsmanship of Richard Sharpe, the character he portrays.



The Roman Garden is just a step away!



## **Vine**

*Vine was often planted in Roman gardens and provided grapes for the table and wine making.*

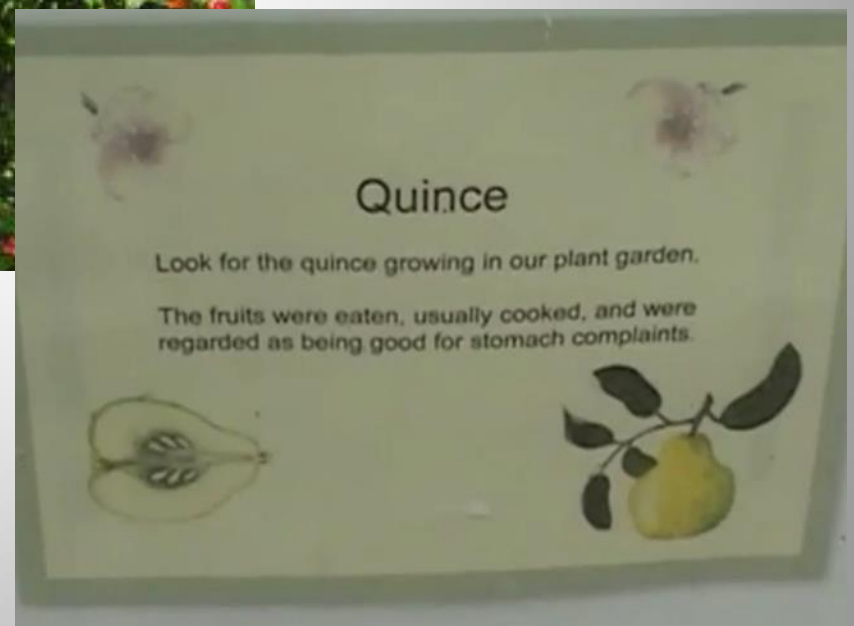
*Vine was also planted to provide shade for pergolas and walkways and this is how we are growing our grapevine.*



## Chicory

Chicory was versatile. It could be used for food and we have it growing in our vegetable bed.

But the Romans also used it to treat fevers when mixed with vinegar and oil of roses.





## Acanthus

The Romans like to plant acanthus ornamentally in formal gardens to line paths, just like the one you can see in our garden today.

The Romans also used acanthus medicinally. The roots were cooked and applied to burns. It was also recommended for preventing hair loss.









## Central Pathway and Hedges



You are standing on the line of the central pathway which divided the garden into two halves. It led from the entrance hall, behind, to the audience chamber, ahead of you.

on a ter



You are here





You are here



Guide  
Book

The single tree in front of you has been planted where archaeologists found a 0.76m dia pit which they thought was probably a Roman tree planting pit. We do not know the species of the original tree, but we have planted an Italian cypress.



**26.** The palace at Fishbourne (West Sussex), as it may have looked in about AD 75. (Fishbourne Roman Palace/Sussex Archaeological Society)

