

GCSE LATIN

(1942)

SOURCE MATERIAL: ROMAN LIFE TOPICS 6

6 Topic 6 – Roman Britain

6.1 A description of Britain at the time of Augustus.

Most of the island is low-lying and wooded, but many parts are hilly. Britain produces corn, cattle, gold, silver and iron. These are exported together with hides, slaves and hunting dogs.

(Strabo: *Geography* 4.5.2)

6.2 Julius Caesar was the first Roman to bring an expedition to Britain. He recorded what he saw.

They (the Britons) use either bronze or gold coins, or iron bars of a fixed weight in place of coins. Tin is found in the inland regions, iron in the maritime regions... they use imported bronze.

(Caesar: *Gallic Wars* V.12)

6.3 Map of Britain in the first century A.D. showing areas where the Romans mined for different metals.

Candidates should consult a **map of Britain in the 1st century AD**, similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 2 (Integrated Edition), Stage 14, p. 37 or Book 2 (4th Edition), Stage 14, p. 40.

- 6.4 A lead miner, possibly Roman, holding a pick and bucket to transport ore.**



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- 6.5 A gold *aureus*, minted to celebrate the dedication of Claudius' triumphal arch, showing the arch with Claudius on horseback, two trophies and the inscription DE BRITANN[IS].**

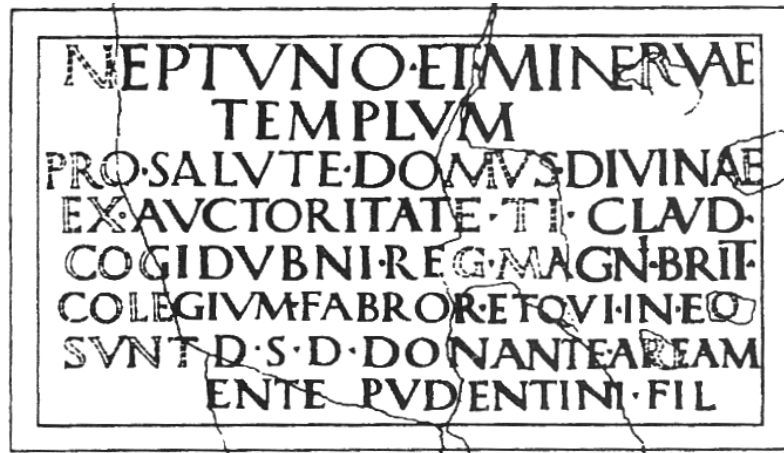
Candidates should consult a picture of a gold coin of Claudius similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 2, Stage 14, pp. 37 and 41.

- 6.6 The situation in Britain shortly after the conquest under Claudius.**

Ostorius Scapula (governor of Britain) was faced with a chaotic situation... he disarmed those whose loyalty could not be relied upon and proposed to consolidate the whole of Britain this side of the (rivers) Trent and Severn. The Iceni, a strong tribe, not yet subdued in battle because they had made a voluntary alliance with us, were the first to rebel against this.

(Tacitus: *Annals* 12.31)

- 6.7 This inscription is from a temple, built in honour of Neptune and Minerva at the request of King Cogidubnus.



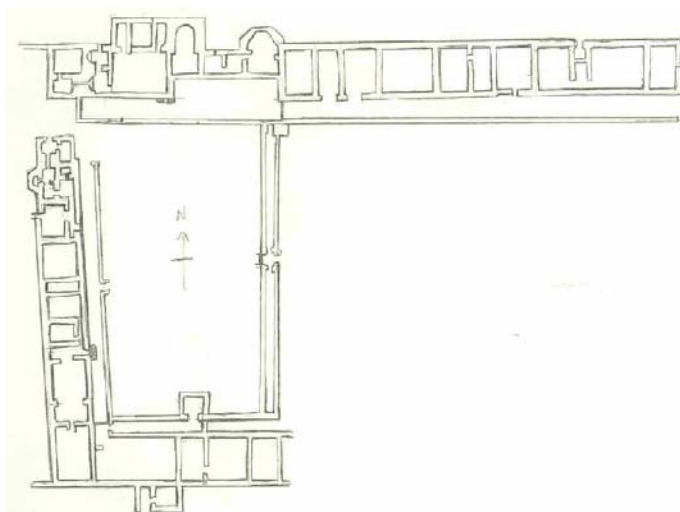
The Cogidubnus inscription from Chichester.
Reconstruction after J.E. Bogaers

To Neptune and Minerva, for the welfare of the Imperial House, on the authority of Tiberius Claudius Cogidubnus, great king of Britain, the guild of smiths and those who are in it gave this temple at their own expense. (...)ens the son of Pudentinus gave the site.

(Translation: M. Thorpe)

Candidates could also consult the drawing printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 2, Stage 15, p. 55).

- 6.8 Plan of Chedworth Roman villa in the 4th century A.D.



(Drawing: S McPhee)

6.9 This picture shows the remains of the north wing of Chedworth villa.



© M. Thorpe

6.10 Advice on choosing a site for a villa.

Inside the farm enclosure there should be a spring...nearby there should be a clump of trees to provide wood, and pasture for the animals. If there is no running water, search for a well close by.

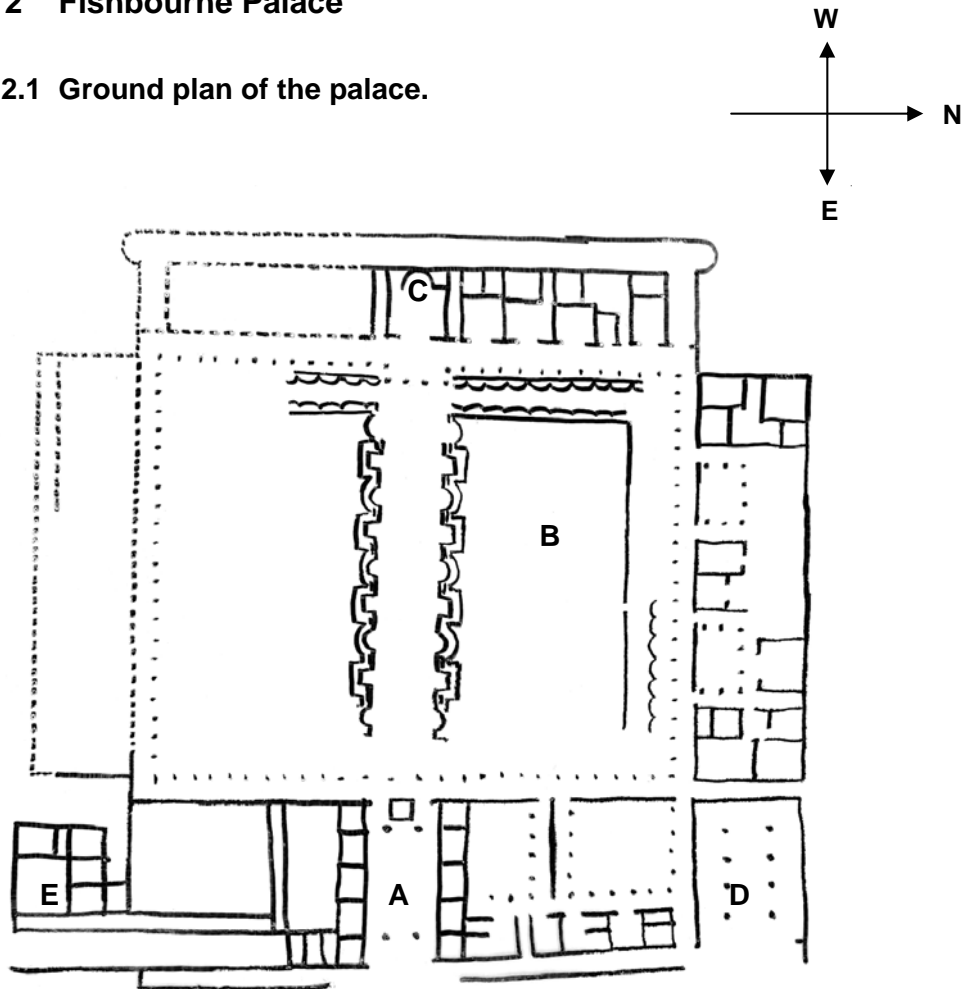
(adapted from Columella: *On Agriculture* 1.v.i)

6.11 A Roman bronze model of a ploughman driving a pair of oxen.

Candidates should consult a **photograph of a bronze model of a ploughman with oxen** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 2, Stage 13, p. 19.

6.12 Fishbourne Palace

6.12.1 Ground plan of the palace.



Key:

- A: Entrance Hall
- B: The Central Garden
- C: Audience Chamber
- D: Hall
- E: Bath House

6.12.2 The picture shows a model of the palace.

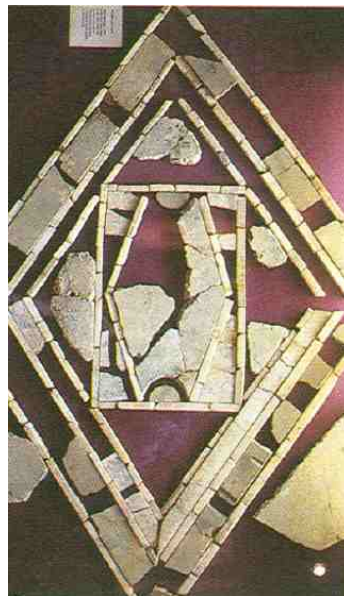
Candidates should consult a **picture of a model of Fishbourne Palace** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 2, Stage 16, p. 69.

6.12.3 A piece of the plaster frieze which decorated the walls of one of the palace rooms.



© R. Dalladay

6.12.4 Fragments of marble imported from quarries in Italy, Greece and Asia Minor. These were also part of the wall decoration.



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6.12.5 The bedding trenches in the palace gardens show that these were formal gardens.

Candidates should consult **a picture of bedding trenches at Fishbourne Palace** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 2, Stage 16, p. 72.

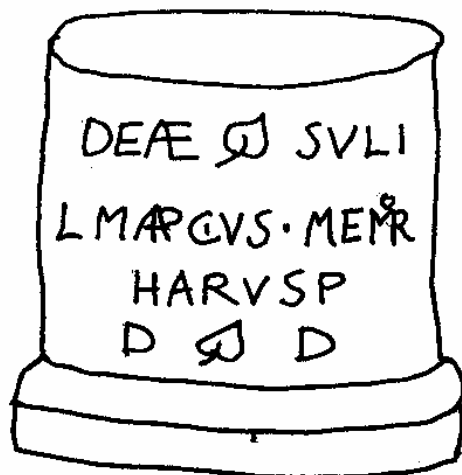
6.12.6 Today box hedges, planted in the trenches, give an idea of how this part of the garden once looked.



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6.13 Bath

6.13.1 The drawing is of the base of a statue, dedicated to the goddess Sulis by Lucius Marcus Memor, a Roman official.



To the goddess Sulis, Lucius Marcus Memor, *haruspex* (soothsayer), gave this as a gift.

(Drawing and translation: M. Thorpe)

6.13.2 A plan of the baths and temple in Bath in about 100 A.D.

Candidates should consult a **plan of the baths and temple at Bath** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 3, Stage 21, p. 17.

6.13.3 To the goddess Sulis Minerva and to the divine powers of the emperors, Gaius Curiatius Saturninus, centurion of the Second Augusta legion, willingly and deservedly fulfilled his vow, for himself and his kinsmen.

(Inscription on a tombstone from Bath)

6.14 Roads

6.14.1 A map showing the main roads in Roman Britain.

Candidates should consult **a map of late first century Britain with roads** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 3 (4th Edition), Stage 28, p. 139.

6.14.2 The picture shows the Stanegate, a Roman Road in the north of England.



© J. Waller

Candidates could also consult other pictures of Roman roads in Britain.

6.14.3 Diagram of a section through a Roman road.

Candidates should consult a **diagram of a section through a Roman road** similar to that printed in Cambridge Latin Course: Book 3, Stage 24, p. 66.

6.14.4 Kerbs were built to prevent the agger from sliding off to the sides. The road surface has worn away.



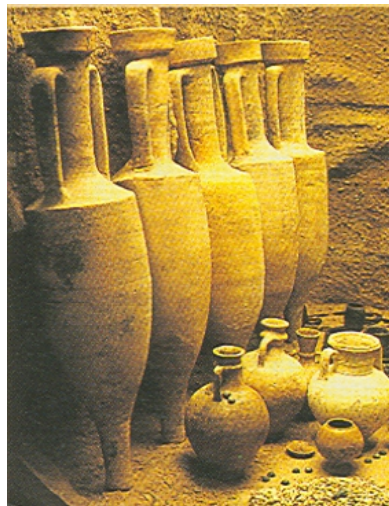
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6.14.5 Surface metalling with large stones on the Appian Way in Italy shows how many roads in Roman Britain would have looked.



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6.15 The picture shows rows of *amphorae* used for transporting wine. They were found in the tomb of a wealthy Briton.



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