

**A MATTER OF VECTENSIAN IDENTITY**  
**With a review concerning ‘The search for the Durotriges’**

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***Abstract/summary***

*As a scientific society committed to the study and interpretation of the natural and human history of the Isle of Wight, how far should we cast our net in reviewing comparable archaeological studies pursued by our neighbours? Martin Papworth’s new book on ‘The search for the Durotriges’ has no need to beg this question because the issue of Wight’s pre-Roman ethnicity, identity, and cross-Solent relations has long tantalised the minds of both Islanders and visitors. Here, a re-appraisal of the tribal status and ethnicity of Iron Age and Romano-British Vectis is combined with a review of this book. Ptolemy’s Geographia, slab-lined cist burials in Dorset and Wight, Durotrigian silver staters, and CRAB silver units and minims are specifically discussed.*

***Early speculations concerning Wight’s tribal neighbours***

When assembling his ‘chorography’ of *Britannia*, in 1586, William Camden was the first to wrestle with the enduring question of Wight’s ancient status. William turned to that ‘first map of Britain’ that had been produced long ago as an annex to *Ptolemy’s Cosmographia*. Assembled in 2<sup>nd</sup> century Alexandria, here was a masterpiece of Classical science partially drawn from earlier Greek geographic calculations. On *Ptolemy’s* map of the known Roman world the coasts of *Britannia*, *Vectis*, and *Gaul*, were all carefully positioned along estimated lines of longitude. In *tabla 2* of his map of Europe, *Ptolemy* added the names and the approximate locations of British tribes. Here was a contemporary map of early Roman Britain, with only Scotland seriously distorted.

North of the island of *Vectis*, *Ptolemy* noted the presence of ‘*Belgae*’ in the territory we would now describe as Wessex. Eastward, in the Chichester region, he indicated the *civitas* capital of the *Regni* (‘*Regno*’). West of the New Forest he noted the realm of the *Durotriges* as well as the presence of *Dunium*. This latter name has been formerly interpreted as the great hillfort of Maiden Castle but the Roman-occupied hillfort at Hod Hill has since been favoured (Rivet & Smith, 1972, 145 & 344).

When examining British tribal territories such as the homeland of the *Durotriges*, Camden became the first antiquary to consider archaeological evidence. His inspiration sprang from some early finds of British (‘Celtic’) coins or ‘staters’. Having examined their inscriptions, Camden saw that many of them seemed attributable to early British chieftains or kings. It seemed to him that each perceived family of coins might once have served as tribute money drawn from a particular region. Although mistaken, this, he suggested, had been levied by individual tribal leaders to meet the surrender terms imposed by *Julius Caesar*. Of the many subsequent discussions on these coins, the most recent is that of John Creighton (2000).

So confident was William in the revelation of his Iron Age coins that he arranged his new geographic descriptions of English counties under the regional names that *Ptolemy* had provided for the ancient British tribes (Fig. 1). When reaching the Isle of Wight, he found no coins or other helpful antiquities for guidance. In Hampshire he was also struggling with the southern territory of the *Atrebates*. This had been largely supplanted by *Ptolemy’s* blanket label of *Belgae*. On some medieval copies of *Ptolemy’s* map the addition of some dotted boundaries even suggested that this Belgic territory extended through the Mendip upland to the coast of the Bristol Channel (Fig. 1). All of these problems of tribal territories arose where Camden was seeking to construct a pre-Conquest geography from data that had been assembled in the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. By this later date, *Ptolemy’s* map had encompassed the new cantonal divisions of the post-Conquest period. By

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now, some of the older tribal territories had been partially re-cast into new *civitates*. In the Hampshire region, some of these changes seem to have restricted old *Atrebatic* identity to the chalklands of Berkshire and the environs of the *oppidum* and subsequent *civitas* town of *Calleva Atrebatum* (Silchester).

With a second tribal centre or market now established at *Venta Belgarum* (Winchester), it seemed that Ptolemy's *Belgae* controlled south Hampshire and its coast (Fig. 1). This reviewer considers that a case might be argued that the suffix applied to this latter town announced the spoken language of the market place rather than the definition of a specific Belgic tribe. Barry Cunliffe reminds us that many of the *Atrebates* were continental émigrés, having arrived with their leader *Commius* in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC (Cunliffe, 2001, 406). When *Caesar* tells us that these people crossed to Britain 'to join others of their kind', here was an early opportunity for their British territory to be nominally focussed around at least two markets.

In describing his map, William Camden commented that his evidence was 'collected from *Ptolemy, Antonine's Itinerary, the Notitia Dignitatum and inscriptions*'. When dealing with the smaller British islands that had been plotted by *Ptolemy*, he opted for a separate inventory. In handling *Vectis* however, he chose to omit this from this list. Camden now annexed this particular island to his Hampshire *Belgae*. Postulating a bond between *Vectis* and these, or any other mainland neighbours, was really no more than a guess.



Fig.1. A Tudor interpretation of the Roman island of *Vectis* and the disposition of neighbouring British tribes and places-names. Dotted boundaries denoting the tribal or cantonal territories of the *Durotriges, Belgae, Atrebatum* and *Regni* are derived from *Ptolemy*. From Edmund Gibson's 1696 edition of Camden's *Britannia*.

*A current view on the status and identity Vectensians during the Late pre-Roman Iron Age*

Since Camden's day, archaeology has done much to elucidate the nature of the tribal neighbours of our insular Vectensians; yet the cross-Solent annexation proposed in 1586 has largely remained unchallenged until issue of Iron Age coins in the region has gained new attention (Sellwood, 1984; Wellington, 2001). Meanwhile, on Wight, the past twenty years has seen a change in cultural perceptions in which 'Vectis Ware', the indigenous brown-burnished domestic pottery of Late Iron Age and Romano-British Islanders, has displayed a remarkable affinity with the Durotrigian black-burnished vessels of Dorset (Tomalin, 1987, 30-40). Behind this bifurcated ceramic tradition, a reception or acquisition by Vectensians of Durotrigian wives and potters might, perhaps, be speculated.

It seems that the development of Vectis Ware probably occurred in the opening years of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. Before this time we find Islanders using 'saucepan pot' ceramics that could signify greater affinity with Atrebatian territory (Cunliffe, 1989, 254-9; Tomalin 1992). The 1<sup>st</sup> century BC is also a time when Islanders are clearly engaged in cross-Channel trafficking that brings home wine from the Roman world. This is well attested by fragments of Dressel type 1 amphorae found on the seabed at Yarmouth and also in a generous scatter across much of the Island (Trott & Tomalin, 2003, 166, fig. 10).

With a long-standing awareness of the enviable richness of their 'Garden Isle', it seems that Vectensians may have opted for pragmatic pluralism when handling their mainland neighbours. Some internal proclivities leading towards an early East Wight/West Wight division may have already arisen through familiar contacts with particular sectors of the mainland coast. An awareness of an East Wight/West Wight distinction still persists amongst Islanders today.

Since 1987, a revelation in Wight's cross-Solent relations has been revealed through the metal-detection of Iron Age coins. This has swung the Vectensian cultural compass firmly towards Dorset. Persuasive evidence is now offered by a remarkable quantity of Durotrigian silver and copper alloy coins recovered from more than 40 individual find-spots. This amounts to some 50% of all find-spots of Iron Age coins on the Island. An important component is the hoard of Durotrigian gold, silver, and copper alloy coins found with two silver and one copper alloy ingot in the West Wight parish of Shorwell. In East Wight, a plough-scattered assemblage of coins from Newchurch parish may represent a further hoard.

Found in 2004, the Shorwell hoard was dutifully reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). This cache offered a one-time opportunity to retain and examine evidence for the possible production of certain versions of Durotrigian coins by Vectensian moneyers. The Shorwell ingots and some forge-fused silver Gallic coins found at Freshwater proffer a possibility recasting and minting. Having remained in the ground for some two thousand years, here was a unique testimony concerning the Island's cultural and economic complexion during those vital years leading to the Claudian Conquest. Amazingly, the opportunity for museum purchase was promptly declined by the Isle of Wight Council. As a result, this precious assemblage of coins from the heart of the Island has since been abandoned to dispersal through on-line sales and dealerships.

Now that this vital opportunity to probe ancient Vectensian cultural identity has been lost, we are still left to ponder the nature of past ties with a westerly county with which Islanders may no longer feel so well acquainted. Fortunately, for a mainland perspective, we can now turn to Martin Papworth's excellent new book that leads us through the hillforts, farmsteads, and the material culture of our Iron Age neighbours.

*The new 'Search for the Durotriges'*

Spread across the county of Dorset is an Iron Age population occupying a landscape that shows much in common with the land of the Vectensians, albeit on a much larger scale. Where Chalk uplands, river valleys, Greensand vales and a distinct limestone coastal region offered home, food

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and shelter to an industrious prehistoric people, so, too, did the natural zones of Wight.

In his *'Search for the Durotriges'* (published 2011) Martin Papworth opens with a reminder that Dorset is small, beautiful, and 'renowned for its large Iron Age hillforts'. The latter are sentinels of a former 'Greater Dorset' where the fashioning of characteristic pottery and the striking of distinctive coins once asserted the cultural identity of the *Durotriges*. Yet this concept of cultural recognition by coins and pottery comes with the author's strong 'health warning'. It is argued that the proliferation of 'Poole Harbour Pottery' (BB1) owes more to successful entrepreneurial activity, rather than an expression of tribal identity. It now appears that only the coins may offer some evidence of geographic and social cohesion in a population that is seemingly fragmented by its heavily defended hillforts. Yet even the coins show localised differences.

On Wight, it seems that Vectensians discounted any desperate resort to barricaded hilltops in favour of the natural defence offered by their 'Solent moat'. (Here we might note that the Island's one great and unfinished rampart on Chillerton Down remains undated. There is, moreover, no particular reason to assume an Iron Age date).

At the outset of his 'search', the Martin Papworth sets his theme by observing that the very presence of Dorset's hillforts signifies the authority of an array of individual polities. When collective security was eventually needed, these clustered populations might be drawn into 'confederacy'. In describing these communities, the author employs Robert Van Arsdell's adjective 'Durotrigan', rather than the more familiar 'Durotrigian' used by Wheeler (1943) and Brailsford (1957).

In chapter 4 we meet the meat that we seek to chew. Here the author examines that conjectured and ever-tantalising territorial boundary that is probably responsible for more conflict amongst archaeologists than was ever evoked amongst those uneasy hilltop gatherings of 'Durotrigans'. In his search for these people, the author draws on the distribution of both the coins and the pottery to re-define a territory where all earlier archaeological concepts of a tribal boundary are now left in doubt.

On the tribal interface with the Devon *Dumnonii*, a postulated boundary at the river Axe seems no longer convincing. On the border with South Somerset, the prominent topographic boundary presented by the Jurassic Limestone escarpment is now equally uncertain. In the lowlands north of this natural watershed, it seems that the wetlands of the rivers Brue and Parrett offered the *Durotriges* a valuable corridor to the Bristol Channel. This may have been opportunely colonised during a late episode of tribal expansion. Further north, on and beyond the Mendip limestone, a clear tribal interface with the *Dobunni* still evades us. At the natural boundary presented by the chalk escarpment of southwest Wiltshire, Durotrigian influence yields to Atrebatian culture, yet the author observes that the valleys of the Wylye, and Avon drew sufficient passing trade to muddy the cultural waters.

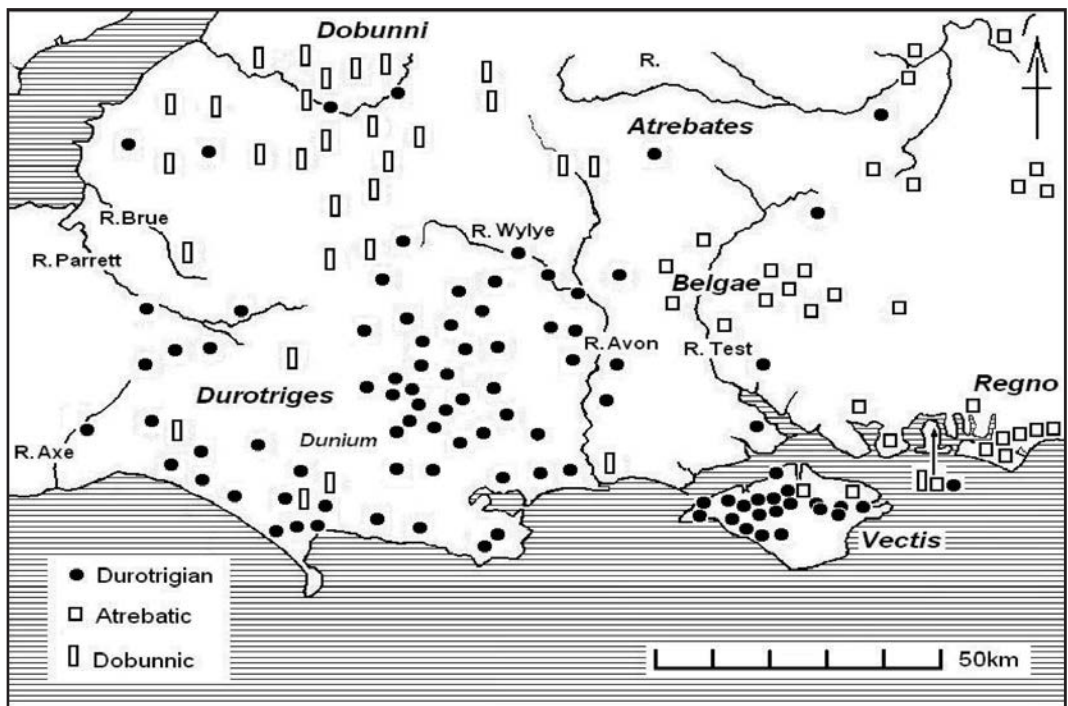
For Isle of Wight readers, the coastal boundary of the *Durotriges* is particularly intriguing. East of the Hampshire Avon, and throughout the New Forest, the cultural complexion of Iron Age settlement has always seemed masked. This has left Wight's relationship with its northern neighbours unresolved. If answers are contained within the substantial hillfort at Buckland Rings (Lyminster) and its adjacent waterside enclosure at Ampress, then this evidence is still concealed and mute.

On page 44 of his work, the author alludes to Lyn Sellwood's work and her suggestion that, east of the Hampshire Avon, a 'sub-Durotrigian group' might occupy a buffer zone leading to the shore of Southampton Water. Since her coin distribution was plotted in 1984, significantly more evidence has accrued within the records compiled by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). In the case of the Isle of Wight, the 1984 map shows no more than one plot for a Durotrigian coin, yet the Island's total number of such find-spots now exceeds forty. Moreover, the total number of Durotrigian silver coins on the Island has now entered the hundreds.

***Reviewing the impact of new finds of Durotrigian coins in the Isle of Wight***

In up-dating the distribution map of Durotrigian silver coins I have not attempted to enter every single find-spot but have grouped some coins together where they have been found in relatively close proximity, such as the same field (Fig. 2). We must also recognise that, due to the particular interest shown by local metal-detectorists, and the tireless efforts of our Finds Liaison Officer, there has been an exceptional intensity of recording on the Isle of Wight. The relatively small size of the Island also engenders greater public familiarity with local archaeological and museum services. This too, has encouraged prompt reporting.

Meanwhile, to strengthen Martin Papworth's case for that eastern extension of his 'Greater Dorset', PAS records for the New Forest add a Durotrigian coin at Fawley, (PAS, CCI-00443). In fig. 2 the find-spots for Durotrigian coins on Wight have been up-dated using PAS data. With the exception of Hayling Island temple, the plots for coins in other neighbouring mainland territories have not been revised.



*Fig. 2. An updated map showing find-spots of Durotrigian silver coins in Wessex and Wight. Coins of the Atrebates and Dobunni are also shown (after Sellwood 1984 & Papworth 2011) now with Vectensian additions. The tribal and place names on this map are an approximation of the positions indicated by Ptolemy.*

Amongst the Island's remaining 50% of Iron Age coin finds, imported Gallic pieces seem well represented while the incidence of Atrebatian currency from the Hampshire region still remains surprisingly weak. Here is powerful archaeological evidence suggesting that Vectensians of the Late pre-Roman Iron Age enjoyed the effective isolation offered by their 'Solent moat' while sustaining a particular affinity with their westerly neighbours in Dorset.

Despite an omission of some of the latest coin evidence, the possibility of a Durotrigian-Vectensian affiliation has been rightly recognised by Martin Papworth who, in defining the

southern coastal boundary of the *Durotriges*, acknowledges that ‘this may include the Isle of Wight’. Later in his book, the case gains a little more strength where a further distribution map raises the number of find-spots for Durotrigian coins in the Island to thirteen (p.175, fig. 61).

***The island of Vectis and the issue of CRAB***

Further coins worthy of our special attention are silver ‘units’ and ‘minims’ bearing the inscription *CRAB* (Van Arsdell, 1989 cat. nos. VA1285-1 & VA1286-1). The meaning of this inscription remains unknown. In dealing with Dorset, Martin Papworth notes the single example recovered from Hod Hill (*loc. cit.*, 117). This was found long ago when a Durotrigian origin was somewhat casually assumed. Since the first example was found ‘near Portsmouth’, in 1830, these small and delicate coins have remained both rare and enigmatic (Fig. 3). Minims now known in the Isle of Wight show die characteristics that differ from the VA1286-1 example illustrated by Robert Van Arsdell. In the Wight example the ‘O’ above the *CRAB* tablet becomes an arc integral with the outer framing of the inscription.

In recent years, a cluster of *CRAB* coins found in East Wight has advanced the Isle of Wight as the potential source of this currency. Mainland find-spots are Hod Hill, Dorset, the Hayling Island temple, a place ‘near Portsmouth’ and a single far-flung copy somewhere in Wiltshire where no precise location has been revealed ( Appendix 2). It seems possible that the vague ‘near Portsmouth’ attribution of the first find might refer to an earlier find on the site of the Hayling Island temple.

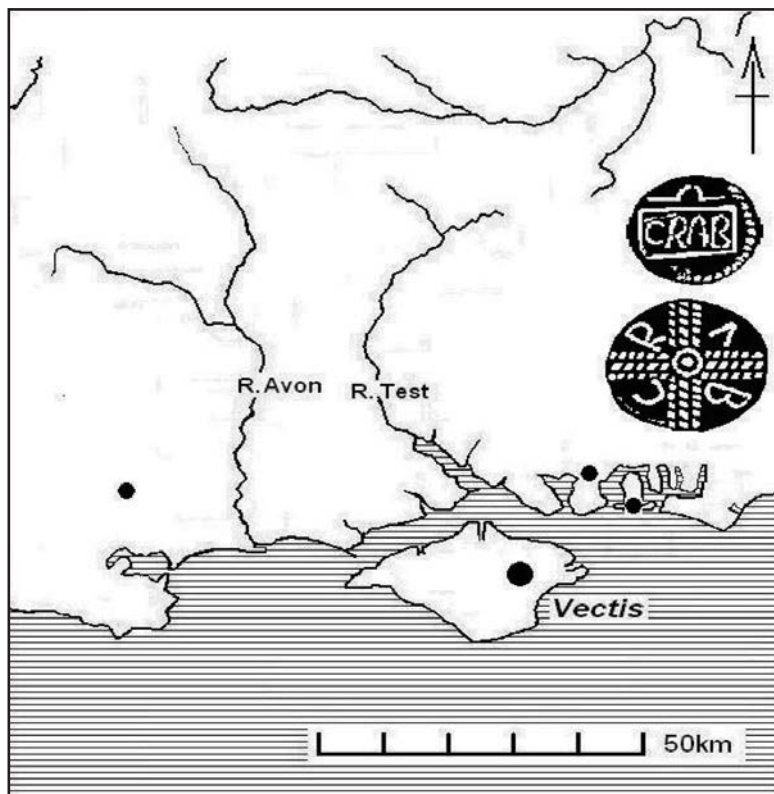


Fig. 3. The distribution of *CRAB* coinage in Wessex and Wight. The coins from East Wight numerically exceed all mainland finds.

**The eagle and the star**

The Roman-style eagle on the obverse side of the *CRAB* silver unit (fig. 4a) closely resembles a motif that was successively employed on certain coins issued by Atrebatian chieftains *Tincomarus* (VA397-1), *Eppillus* (VA451-1), *Epaticcus* (VA580-1 & VA580-3), *Caratacus* (VA591-1) and *Verica* ((VA471-1). The overt pro-Roman imagery on this coin is certainly unsuited to the proud independence of the *Durotriges*. The first of these coins appear during the reign of *Augustus*. This will be sometime after 23 BC when Rome's policy for taming Britain and other barbarian nations included the hosting and subtle nurturing of native princes who might be tutored to become client kings. Augustan coinage ceases in AD14.

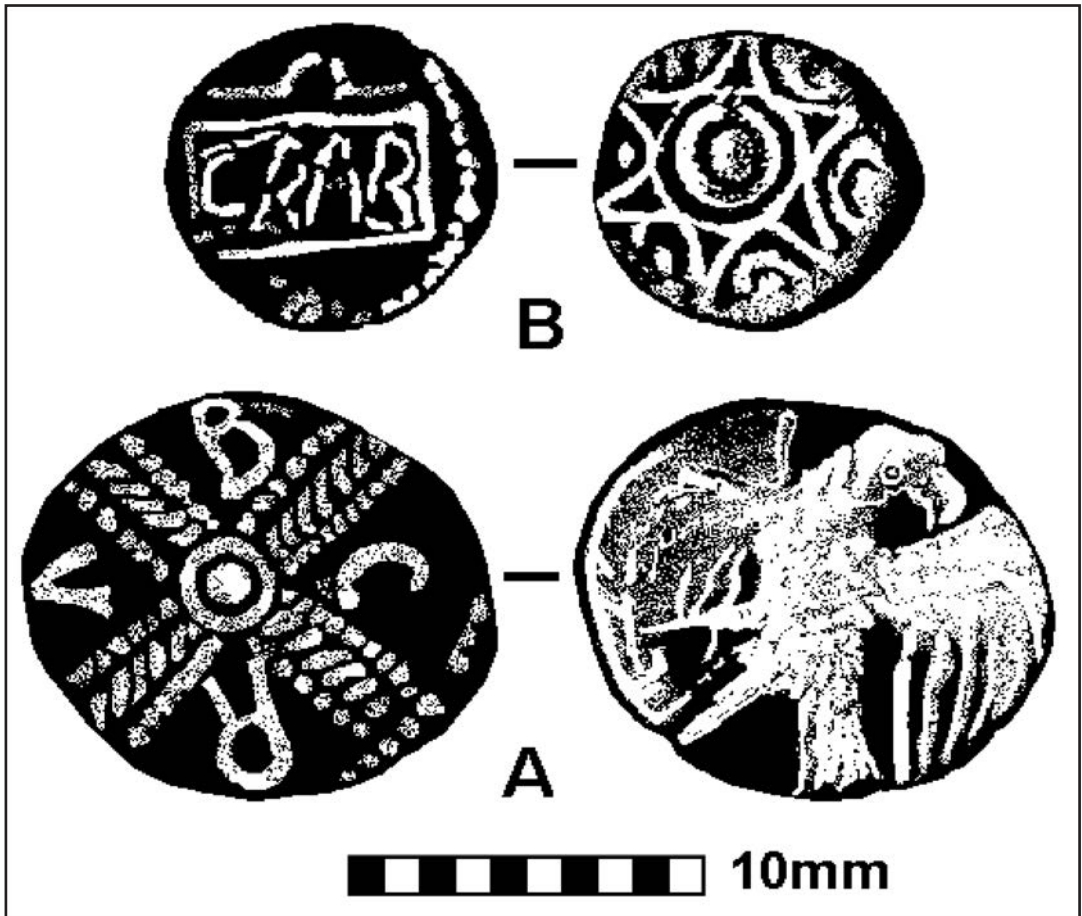


Fig. 4. *CRAB* silver unit (a) and *minim* (b) from East Wight. The unit displays the Roman eagle as a reminder of military power. The *minim* bears the divine star.

On the reverse side of the *CRAB* *minim* we find a star-like motif (Fig. 4b). This appears to represent a growing Roman practice of deifying emperors presumed destined for immortality amongst the stars. John Creighton (2000, 103-4) explains that ideas of this kind stem from 44 BC when a passing of a comet, the *Sidus Iulium*, was attributed to a perceived transformation of *Julius Caesar* into a god. Martin Henig illustrates a denarius of *Julius Caesar* that displays this star. He

also shows a similar image carved on a stone architrave in the temple of *Sulis Minerva* at Bath (Henig, 2002. 48-52, fig. 17). Roman coins bearing the *Divus*, or divine star, proliferate during the reign of *Augustus* when his sycophantic court proclaims him a god during his lifetime.

It seems that the arrival, in Britain, of this absurd cult of conceit and flattery is marked by an issue of certain coins, or ‘units’ for the Atrebatian chieftain *Eppillus* (VA450-1 & VA451-1) and the Catuvellaunian chieftain *Tasciovanus* (VA1808-1; 1855-1, 1810-1 & 1812-1). These, too, bear a bold star motif. The similarity between the *Eppillus* bronze unit VA450-1 and the imagery expressed in both the star and eagle of the *CRAB* coins is particularly striking. Van Arsdell proposes a date around 10BC –10AD for the coins issued by *Eppillus*.

Where the *CRAB minims* of the Isle of Wight bear a similar star motif it appears that we may be glimpsing a comparable event when Islanders were presumably loosening their affiliation with the coinage and culture of the *Durotriges*. It seems that detachment from this Dorset alliance could have been underway before the death of *Augustus* in AD 14.

The finality of this separation seems evident in AD 43 when we find archaeological evidence for fierce anti-Roman resistance in Durotrigian territory. In the homeland of the opportune seafarers and traders of *Vectis*, we see no such thing. The stamping of the Roman eagle on silver units of *CRAB*, *Eppillus* and *Verica* (VA1285-1; VA450-1 and VA47-1) suggests that these coins were in use sometime during the first three decades of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD when maritime interests throughout the Atrebatian and Vectensian coastline had secured particularly friendly connections with the Gallo-Roman world.

### **The defacement of CRAB**

Now that *CRAB* offers at least intimation that a personal polity or kingdom may once have asserted itself on the Late Iron Age island of *Vectis*, we should look more closely at the condition of these coins. Of the three silver minims from Newchurch two have their *CRAB* inscriptions deliberately defaced by a deep chisel-driven slot (coins CCI-982394 & 982395). On the minim from Hod Hill (CCI-681879) there appears to be further transverse defacement. Yet more chisel damage, comprising two v-shaped slots, disfigures the inscription on the Wiltshire minim. On a *CRAB* unit from Newchurch (CCI-3047) we find two close-spaced chisel cuts driven into the centre of the inscribed face.

Who, or whatever, *CRAB* may have been, it appears that a determined effort was made to deny this identity when these coins were still in circulation. Where these defacements are found both on and off the Island it seems that this kind of denouncement might suite the immediate aftermath of the Roman Conquest. We should not forget that this was a time when *C/Togidubnus* and his Regnensian compatriots in West Sussex were apparently reinforcing Roman military advances through hostile tribal territories in southern England. If men and crews of *Vectis* were drawn into provisioning and supporting this campaign, then the Hod Hill and Wiltshire coins, and all of our noted defacements, gain a plausible but unproven context.

It also seems pertinent that, given the generous number of Iron Age coins recovered from the Hayling Island temple, the presence of *CRAB* is so weakly represented here. The same may be said of the rest of the mainland coast where the name or credibility of *CRAB* seems to have gained little ground. If these coins have a story to tell, then perhaps we might speculate an episode of short-lived Vectensian isolationism soon displaced by fully committed pro-Roman opportunism. Was *CRAB*, perhaps, was the casualty of such a scenario?

*A custom of the dead*

Since styles of pottery and the iconography of coins demonstrate an unquestionable link between Dorset and Wight during the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, we are bound to consider other affinities. Deep-seated funerary traditions can certainly be a helpful litmus test. In chapter 4 of his book, Martin Papworth helpfully summarises a distinctive mode of Durotrigian burial. Crouched posture, provision of grave-goods, the inclusion of food, and the sometime use of stone-lined cists are some important distinctions in the land of the *Durotriges*. The latter mode of burial is virtually confined to the coastline of Dorset. Most of these graves are dated to a Late pre-Roman Iron Age or the Romano-British period. Some 9km from the Dorset coast, in the large Romano-British cemetery at Poundbury, near Dorchester, a few slab-lined cists amount to 2% of 1114 graves in the main 4<sup>th</sup> century burial area. Here, this minor burial mode mostly concerns women and children. The slabs in these particular burials are modest and thin and lack the robustness of those constructed near the coast. On a chalk hillside, this could be a matter of availability.

If we extract from the author's map the stone cist versions of Durotrigian burials and add unpublished data from the Isle of Wight, we see a marked coastal distribution extending from the Dorset Fleet to the Wight/Solent region (Fig. 5; also Appendix 1). Elsewhere in his text, the author reminds us that stone-lined cists have also been found on the Cornish coast at Stamford Hill, Harlyn Bay and Trethellen Farm, Newquay. They are also noted on a hillside overlooking the Late Iron Age coastal port at Mount Batten, in Plymouth Sound (*ibid*, 54). Perhaps, in this westerly trail of burials along the Dumnonian coast, we glimpse an active maritime culture in which Vectensians were uniquely positioned to play a significant seafaring role.

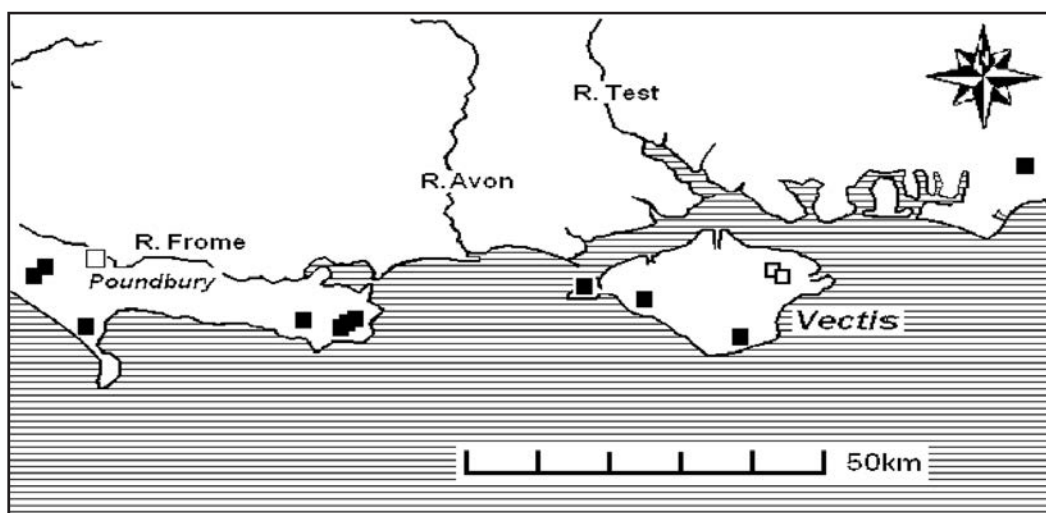
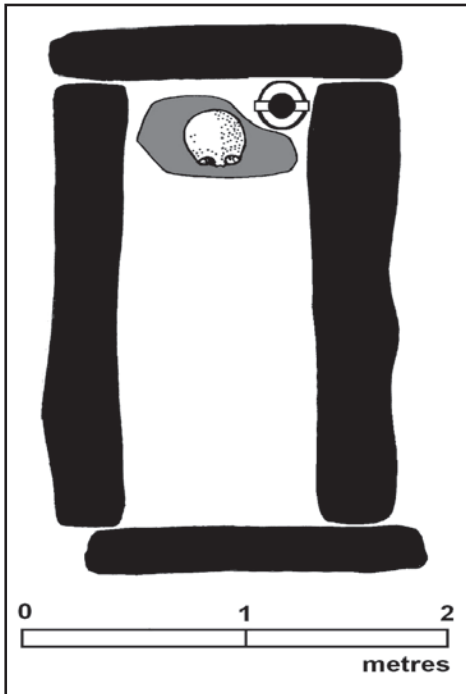


Fig. 5. Stone cist burials of Late pre-Roman Iron Age and Romano-British date in Durotrigian and Vectensian territory.

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An outstanding Vectensian example of this mode of burial is the robust stone cist discovered at Sheepwash, Freshwater, in 1898 (Fig. 6). While the position of the body was not adequately recorded, the proportions of the stone-slabbed cist suggest a flexed or contracted posture of some kind. The skull is that of a mature woman whose malocclusion in her upper dentition is characteristic of maxillary prognathism (excessively protruding teeth). The cist slabs, skull and handled beaker were all removed to Princess Beatrice's museum at Carisbrooke Castle. The latter two items survive.



*Fig. 6. A reconstructed plan of the stone cist burial at Sheepwash, Freshwater, based on contemporary photographs of 1898. Scale and proportions are approximate*

In the 'Sheepwash burial', the head of the deceased rested on a selected stone 'pillow'. Next this pillow was a two-handled jar or beaker. Holbrook and Bidwell (1991, 101-2, fig. 27) cite several examples of this style of pot, fashioned in Black-Burnished Ware in South-East Dorset. Known dates for these particular BBI products are almost entirely late 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century, although one questionable 2<sup>nd</sup> century context is also acknowledged. Some grey ware versions of this general form were also produced in the New Forest potteries during the period AD 270-350 (Fulford, 1975, 97-8, fig. 34, type 26). The Sheepwash vessel bears an unusual scratched graffito that might be a possession mark scored by its owner (Fig. 7). The fabric seems at least atypical of Vectis Ware and might claim a Dorset origin.

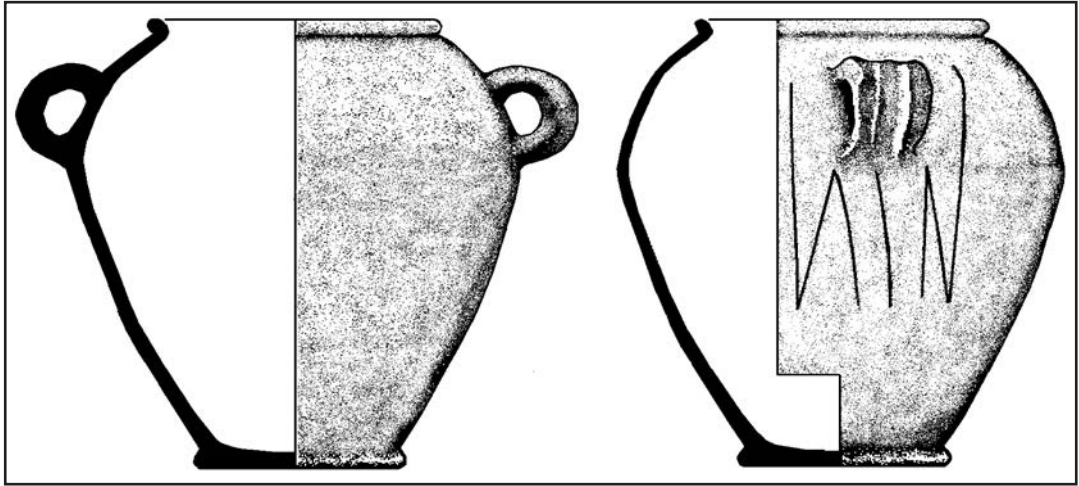


Fig. 7. Twin-handled jar from the Sheepwash cist. Height 154mm.  
The scratched graffito may be a mark of ownership

In another such cist, uncovered many years ago in the Ventnor Undercliff, the contents were said to be animal bones accompanied by a Samian vessel (Westropp, 1883; Sherwin, c.1936, Roman note 60). This practice certainly resembles some of the food offerings observed in Durotrigian burials where we now know pork, beef and mutton to be preferred choices (Papworth, 2011, 54).

#### *A conclusion on the Search for Durotriges*

In pursuing his ‘Durotrigan confederation’ throughout and beyond the confines of modern Dorset, Martin Papworth has taken on the challenging task of interpreting old and new excavated evidence as well as the results of recent field surveys. The latter can vary from the regionally focussed to the opportune. To achieve synthesis, the author presents us with seven ‘study areas’ that seek to exemplify the cultural distinctions of Dorset’s Iron Age population. Several of these zones are notably rich in sites that are now carefully managed by the National Trust. The intensity of fieldwork presented in this book certainly shows that the author’s energies have been very thoughtfully deployed.

Today, when the erratic progress of the field archaeologist is more often led by the hand and halter of the developer, it is re-assuring to see sustained regional syntheses of this kind. The work of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments and the discerning archaeological conservation strategies of the National Trust are gently written between the lines. The finely drawn plans of hillforts and the recently executed geophysical surveys are a tribute to both organisations. Drawing from his own portfolio, the author also treats us to some impressive aerial views of Durotrigian strongholds.

At Hod Hill, a geophysical survey by David Stuart shows just how intense habitation within a Durotrigian hill-fort can be. It seems that we even glimpse evidence of one of Britain’s earliest streets. At Hambledon Hill we see another cramped interior while at Badbury Rings we find somewhat different internal arrangements where a lesser intensity of roundhouses allows space for a series of concentric terraces and rectilinear plots. Surprisingly, the interior of Maiden Castle is not shown.

In concluding his study of the *Durotriges*, Martin Papworth offers a new paradigm for southern British tribalism in which local communities jostle to grasp opportune affiliations while their individual social and economic needs may be differentially advanced. The size of these hill-

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top strongholds and their intensity within the Dorset landscape emphasise how difficult the social process of affiliation or confederation may have been.

Here we encounter an Iron Age *realpolitik* that also befits the geographic and economic predicament of Wight. Provocatively, our author compares this scenario with ‘*the modern Euro zone with its constituent communities protecting their own personal interests while begrudgingly acknowledging the value of remaining in the ‘club’*’. The background to these conclusions is to be found in the author’s wide-ranging investigation of Durotrigian culture, published in 2008.

Historic continuity in land-use and repetition in patterns of human behaviour are two of the underlying themes in this book. On an island where the cultural significance of local archaeology has yet to be seen with the same clarity, this book is a ‘must’ for the shelf of every discerning Vectensian.

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### **Appendix 1. Late Iron Age and Romano-British slab cist burials in coastal locations in Wessex and Wight.**

1. Studland, Dorset. 2 graves lined with Purbeck slabs. Possibly R-B. (Calkin, 1952).
2. Herston, Swanage, Dorset. 1974. 3 stone cist burials of local limestone. (Jarvis, 1982).
3. Kimmeridge. 1944. Cist burial and two R-B bracelets noted. (Calkin 1947).
4. Kimmeridge. Dorset. Cist burial containing woman with jar, limpets, snails and spindle whorl. Gaultier Gap 1947. (Calkin 1947).
5. Kimmeridge, Dorset. 1959. 3 cist burials. (Farrah, 1959).
6. Corfe Castle, Dorset. Disturbed cist with RB pottery at Kingston Barn.
7. Portesham Dorset. 2 R-B cist burials. (Bailey, 1975).
8. Blashenwell. Tufa-lined cist noted by Whimster (1981).
9. Poundbury, Dorchester. Late Roman cemetery. 2% of the burials show slab linings. Women and children predominate. (Farwell & Molleson, 1993, 61-3).
10. Freshwater, Sheepwash. IW. Stone cist containing female inhumation with double-handled pottery jar. Uncovered and removed in 1898.

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11. Brighstone, Rock villa. IW. Stone cist or chamber observed in 1840s near Roman villa.
12. Ventnor, Gills Cliff. Stone cist with animal bones and Samian vessel. (Westropp, 1883).
13. Brading Down. IW. Two stone-lined cists allegedly found and destroyed during 20<sup>th</sup> century farming on chalk hilltop near Devil's Punch Bowl round barrow.
14. Shepherd's Chine IW. In-situ slab reported by M. Green and perceived to be the remnant of a highly disturbed stone cist in the east face of chine some 0.50m below the surface. Undermined by coastal erosion.
15. Aldingbourne, West Sussex. Cist burial with pottery lamp, bronze ring & brooch cited by Whimster, (1981).

### Appendix 2. CRAB coins and their provenances

1.	CCI-982385	Silver minim	VA1286	Newchurch.	Defaced
2.	CCI-982394	Silver minim.	VA1286	Newchurch.	Defaced
3.	CCI-982393	Silver minim.	VA1286	Newchurch.	
4.	CCI-91043	Silver minim.	VA1286	Hayling Island temple.	
5.	CCI-681879	Silver minim.	VA1286	Hod Hill. Found 1879	Defaced
6.	CCI-953327	Silver unit.	VA1285	Newchurch.	Found 1993.
7.	CCI-952328	Silver unit.	VA1285.	Newchurch.	
8.	CCI-681878	Silver unit.	VA1285	Near Portsmouth.	1830. BM
9.	CCI-3047	Silver unit.	VA1285	Isle of Wight.	Defaced
10.	IOW-DA10F4	Silver unit	VA1285	Newchurch	IOW2007-23-19

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