

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link  
London and Continental Railways  
Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture**

**Small Finds from Bower Road, Smeeth, Kent  
(ARC 440/99)**

by Paul Booth and Hilary Cool

**CTRL Specialist Report Series  
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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>1</b>	<b>THE GLASS SMALL FINDS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	INTRODUCTION.....	3
1.2	ITEMS BY FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES .....	3
1.3	CATALOGUE.....	4
<b>2</b>	<b>THE COINS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	INTRODUCTION.....	5
2.2	CATALOGUE.....	5
2.3	DISCUSSION .....	6
<b>3</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT DATA.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>7</b>

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1: Quantification of glass small finds.....	3
Table 2: Quantification of coins small finds .....	5

**LIST OF FIGURE**

Figure 1: Bower Road Glass Small Finds	
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## 1 THE GLASS SMALL FINDS

by Hilary Cool

### 1.1 Introduction

A total of 11 glass fragments were recovered at Bower Road, including eight from glass vessels and three beads. All objects are from Roman contexts.

The following table gives a summary of small finds identification and provenance.

*Table 1: Quantification of glass small finds*

SF_ Number	Context	Feature Number	PX_ Interpretation	Phase *	Object Identification	Material
0	477	173	Drainage ditch	Early Roman	Jar	Glass
0	381	381	Cleaning layer	Middle Roman	Body fragment	Glass
0	367	169	Boundary ditch	Middle Roman	Bead	Glass
106	103	372	Waterhole	Middle Roman	Bottle	Glass
6	418	550	Building	Middle Roman	Bead	Glass
3	557	554	Pit	Middle Roman	Body fragment	Glass
28	250	242	Pit	Late Roman	Bead or ring	Glass
96	250	242	Pit	Late Roman	Conical beaker	Glass

\* based on site phasing

### 1.2 Items by Functional Categories

#### 1.2.1 Glass Vessels

A total of 8 vessel glass fragments were recovered. The earliest (**1**) may be dated to the mid 1<sup>st</sup> century. Polychrome glass such as this with opaque white marvered decoration had generally gone out of use by the mid Flavian period (Cool 1992, 64). The tiny fragment **2** would also have been of 1<sup>st</sup> century date.

The jar rim fragment **3** can only be dated broadly to the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century on the basis of its colour. **4** is a fragment of a blue/green prismatic bottle (Price and Cottam 1998, 194) dateable to the later 1<sup>st</sup> to mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

The other fragments (**5**; Fig. 1) come from a 4<sup>th</sup> century conical beaker (Price and Cottam 1998, 121). The vessel is slightly unusual in being made of blue/green glass rather than the more common late greenish colourless shade typical of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It also lacks the normal abraded band decoration. Both factors may suggest it was in use at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and earlier in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, rather than later in the century.

#### 1.2.2 Glass Objects

Small annular yellow/green beads such as **6** are not particularly common. An example was found at the King Harry Lane cemetery at Verulamium in a later 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to mid 1<sup>st</sup> century AD grave (Stead & Rigby 1989, 109 no. 1e) suggesting they may be pre-Roman.

They are well represented in contexts dating to the later 1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, for example at in the drain deposit at the Caerleon fortress bath dated to between AD 75/85 and 100/10 (Brewer 1986, 148 no.12-16) and at Caersws in a context of AD 100 – 130 (Britnell 1989, 46 nos. 109). They tend not to be present on late Roman necklaces suggesting they had long gone out of use by then. A 1<sup>st</sup> century date is thus most likely for them. **7** is a small fragment from a common late Roman form in use from about the mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century to the end of the Roman period (Guido 1978, 91).

The fragment **8** is something of a puzzle (Fig. 1). It is a small fragment which makes calculating a diameter difficult but it appears fairly certain to be in the vicinity of 35mm. Given the narrow section it is unlikely to be from a bead. The section is more appropriate for the hoop of a glass finger ring but again the diameter would be large for this. The colour combination would be rare on objects of either kind. In these circumstances, the only date advanced has to be based on its context.

### 1.3 Catalogue

The number (P-) visible at the end of each catalogue entry refers to the unique record ID which can be found in the database. Only conical beaker SF 96 and bead/ring SF 28 (nos. 5 and 8) were illustrated (Figure 1).

- 1 Body fragment. Deep blue with opaque white marvered trail. Dim. 14 x 12 mm, WT 1.5 mm. Cxt 381. P-78.
- 2 Body fragment. SF 3. Cxt 557. P-156.
- 3 Jar; rim fragment. Blue/green. Rim bent out, edge rolled out, down and in. Dimensions 12 x 8 mm. Cxt 477. P-95.
- 4 Prismatic bottle ; body fragment. Blue/green. SF 106. Cxt 103. P-8.
- 5 Conical beaker; 4 joining rim and upper body fragments; Blue/green; many small bubbles. Curved rim, edge cracked off but not ground; straight side sloping in. RD 70 mm, WT 1mm, PH 54 mm, EVE 0.6. SF 96. Cxt 250. P-29.
- 6 Annular bead. Translucent yellow/green. Diameter 9mm, perforation diameter 5.5, thickness 2.5 mm. Cxt 367. Sample 23. P-1582.
- 7 Segmented bead. Translucent mid green glass. Terminal segment only. Diameter 4 mm. SF 6. Cxt 418. P-82.
- 8 Bead or ring. Fragment from D-sectioned annular ring; opaque deep blue glass with part of opaque yellow zig-zag. Section 6x4mm, present length 10 mm, original diameter c 35 mm. SF 28. Cxt 250. P-28.

## 2 THE COINS

by Paul Booth

### 2.1 Introduction

Nine Roman copper alloy coins were recovered, ranging in date from the Claudian period to the late 4th century. The coins were in variable condition but many were very eroded and detailed identification of most, with specific references, was therefore impossible, even after cleaning and consolidation. Detailed observations on the condition of individual coins are only given in selected cases, however. No mint marks survived on the 4th century pieces. The coins are listed in approximate chronological order of minting, with context and small find numbers at the end of each entry.

The following table gives a summary of coins provenance.

Table 2: *Quantification of coins small finds*

SF Number	Context	Feature Number	Px Interpretation	Phase*	Material
80	376	174	Boundary ditch	Early Roman	Copper Alloy
91	245	170	Boundary ditch	Post-Roman	Copper Alloy
30	528	0	Earlier ploughsoil. Seals all Roman features.	Post-Roman	Copper Alloy
134	707	0	Finds from top of ditch 742	Middle Roman	Copper Alloy
104	280	179	Boundary ditch	Post-Roman	Copper Alloy
99	462	171	Boundary ditch	Middle to late Roman	Copper Alloy
9	567	181	Drainage ditch	Middle to late Roman	Copper Alloy
118	152	612	Beam slot	Middle Roman	Copper Alloy
7	564	187	Beam slot	Middle to late Roman	Copper Alloy

\* based on site phasing

### 2.2 Catalogue

The number (AL-) visible at the end of each catalogue entry refers to the unique record ID which can be found in the database

1. Sestertius. Claudius (but obverse completely eroded). EXSC OB CIVES SERVATOS, 4 lines in oak wreath. AD 41-50+. RIC 96. Context 376, SF80. AL-106.

2. Sestertius. Faustina Junior. Only AVG in the obverse legend is clearly legible. Reverse has standing figure struck over a large 'blister' on the surface of the flan. The presence of the 'blister' has prevented contact between the margins of the die and the flan, so there is no reverse legend. AD 146-175. Context 245, SF91. AL-107.

3. Sestertius. Very eroded bearded head (cf Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius etc). Reverse completely eroded. ?c AD 138-192. Context 528, SF30. AL-108.
4. ?As. Slight suggestion of head, partly eroded. Reverse worn completely smooth. Small (21-22 mm across) but appears too thick to be a later (eg early 4th century) piece. ?1st-2nd century. Context 707, SF134. AL-109.
5. Barbarous radiate. Fragmentary radiate bust. Standing figure on reverse. c AD 270-295. Context 280, SF104. AL-110.
6. ?Barbarous radiate. c AD 270-295. Context 462, SF99. AL-111.
7. AE3. House of Constantine. Reverse BEATA TRANQVILLITAS. AD 321-323. Context 567, SF9. AL-112.
8. AE3. House of Valentinian. Reverse ?victory, probably SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE. Eroded ?OF in the left of the field suggests an Arles mintmark. AD 364-375. Context 152, SF118. AL-113.
9. AE4. Arcadius. Reverse VICTORIA AVGGG. AD 388-402. Context 564, SF7. AL-114.

### 2.3 Discussion

The collection is remarkable principally for its wide chronological range, considering the small numbers of coins involved, and lack of emphasis in any one period. The sestertius of Claudius (RIC 96) is relatively unusual as a site find, bronze of this period being overwhelmingly copies of asses (Boon 1974, 102-3). For example, the Canterbury Archaeological Trust excavations at the Marlowe site in Canterbury produced 14 Claudian coins, all asses of Minerva type (RIC 100) of which 10 were copies (Anderson 1995). A single copy of the sestertius RIC 96 was noted by Kenyon amongst 124 Claudian copies (29 of dupondii, the rest asses) from Colchester excavations of 1971-1983, identified solely on the basis of a slight deficiency of weight (Kenyon 1987, 32). Unfortunately the condition of the Bower Road coin is such that it is impossible to judge whether or not it is a regular issue.

### 3 ASSESSMENT DATA

The following finds were examined during the post-excavation assessment and were not subjected to detailed analysis. Please refer to the post-excavation assessment report for further details (URS 2002).

Material	Author
Metalwork	Valerie Diez
Iron Slag	Valerie Diez

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