

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

**Small Finds from Little Stock Farm, Mersham, Kent
(ARC LSF99)**

by Andrew Fitzpatrick

CTRL Specialist Report Series

2006

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1 COINS

by Andrew Fitzpatrick

1.1 Introduction

Fragments of two separate potin coins were recovered from 2535, a fill of pit 2536. As the coins are fragmentary, precise identification is difficult but they both appear to be of the same Class I type, perhaps Allen type L. This type dates to the first half of the 1st century BC and may date to just before Julius Caesar's invasions of Gaul and Britain (Haselgrove 1995, 121). It was the most common type of potin coin of its time in Kent and Little Stock Farm lies close to the heart of its recorded distribution (Holman 2000, 208, 220-1). Although they are of similar type, and could represent a small hoard, the condition of the two coins is very different.

1.2 Catalogue

ON 4013. 2535, fill of pit 2536. Four joining fragments of a Class I potin, perhaps Allen's type L (Allen 1971). Van Arsdell's (1986; 1989, 78, 87-8) dating of this type, his Cantian D/angular bull type, VA 131-1 and 133-1, to 85-50 BC is overly precise, but a date of manufacture within the first half of the 1st century BC is probable (Haselgrove 1998, 105; 1995, 119-24; Hobbs 1996; Holman 2000, 206-10).

The coin was broken on excavation and not all the fragments were retrieved. The obverse is corroded, and currently unconserved, and no details can be made out. The bull on the reverse faces left and its body, four legs and tail are visible. There is a pellet below the body. There are two crescents above the body and part of the exergual line is present. Part of the casting sprue is present at the rear of the bull and the coin is damaged near to where the opposing sprue would have been.

Not weighed as fragmentary.

Celtic Coin Index no. 04.0030.

ON 4010. 2535, fill of pit 2536. Two fragments of a Class I potin, perhaps Allen's type L (Allen 1971), Van Arsdell's Cantian D/angular bull type, VA 131-1 and 133-1 (van Arsdell 1989). A date of manufacture within the first half of the 1st century BC is probable (Haselgrove 1998, 105; 1995, 119-24; Hobbs 1996; Holman 2000, 206-10).

The coin was broken on excavation and not all the fragments were retrieved. Even allowing for the more corroded state of ON 4013 the casting of this coin is finer. Part of the outline of the rear of the head of Apollo is visible on the obverse and on the reverse the rear legs and tail of the bull are adjacent to the casting sprue.

Not weighed as fragmentary.

Celtic Coin Index no. 04.0031.

2 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 2001).

| Material | Author |
|-----------|------------------|
| Glass | Lorraine Mephram |
| Metalwork | Lorraine Mephram |

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